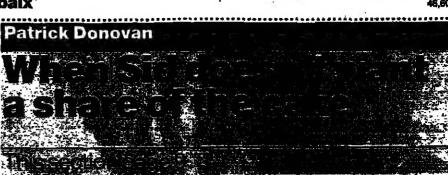
Simon Garfield on the politics of HIV

Online

A music festival live on the Web a site

G2 page 10/13



Child benefit payments to be handed to private sector \square £100m contract could go to pools firm

Lilley starts welfare revolution

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

AYMENT of child benefit to seven million families is to be handed over private sector under plans to be unveiled next week by Peter Lilley, the Social Secu-

rity Secretary.
The dramatic privatisation
of a £7 billion benefit, seen as a cornerstone of the modern welfare state, will pave the way for the contracting-out of much of the social security

Multi-national computer onsultancies are the most

probable bidders for the work. But one trade union leader last night forecast interest in the lucrative child which costs £1.7 billion a year like will also argue that fambenefit contract — likely to be worth up to £100 million a year — from companies such as lottery and pools a lottery and pools when he is due to make a statement to MPs. Union lead-

"They collect information, keep records and pay out money. It could be anybody like that," said Mike King, national officer of the Public sentational difficulties for the Services, Tax and Commerce

sions and disability allow-ances. With child benefit, schemes. these account for half the £90 billion social security bill.

minister in the wake of con-Other benefits ripe for con-tracting-out include the state retirement pension, war pen-replacing state welfare benefits with private insurance

ilies will see no difference and will remain able to collect the benefit in cash at a post

point out that Chris Smith, shadow social security secreconcern of Labour as to how much of the welfare state should be administered by "a particular

bureaucracy".

Mr Lilley dropped some clues to his plans yesterday when he siddressed senior managers of the Department Mr Lilley will stress that of Social Security and its

social security administra-tion costs by a quarter over three years. He said that all the agencies

would from next April have to administered centrally by divide themselves into "pur-chasers" of services and "providers" of them.
"The people who specify contracts and monitor performance need to be distinct

from the people who deliver the result.
"That should be the norm

throughout the department, not just when a service is outsourced but also when it is delivered in-house." Introducing a purchaser/ provider divide would "en-

"change programme" — the pertise if and when appropri-drive to slash the £3.3 billion ate." Mr Lilley said. Social security administra-Child benefit will have been chosen for the first privatisa-tion of a benefit because it is

the most straightforward. It is

1,850 staff in Washington, Type and Wear, and is paid without a means test to al-most all families eligible. The benefit is worth £10.80 a week for the eldest child in a family, and £8.80 each for all others, and goes to the mother

Privatisation will also include one-parent benefit, worth £6.30 a week, which is claimed by 1.5 million families and costs about £300 mil-

It was recently integrated into child benefit. Chris Kirk, DSS section secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, a cleri-cal grades' union, said: "Child

area of work — perfect for privatising."

The Washington staff would be transferred to the company which won the child benefit contract

One name already being touted is that of Electronic Data Systems (EDS), which holds several large government computer contracts. The EDS corporation was founded by Rose Search the former. by Ross Perot, the former United States presidential

pany in sensitive benefit matters would cause anxiety among welfare groups. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) said it would want solid reassurances on confi-dentiality, on monitoring of the contract and on what such privatisation would mean to

Sally Witcher, the action group's director, said: "Our concern is what the implications would be for families with children who very nuch rely on this money

A DSS spokesman declined to comment in advance of Mr Lilley's statement.

Birt faces World Service showdown

OHN BIRT, the direc-tor general of the BBC, has been summoned by Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to justify his eorganisation plans at a face to-face meeting next week amid mounting anger at

Westminster yesterday. Mr Rifkind is angry that his department was only in-formed of Mr Birt's plans less than 24 hours before they were published. He believes ministers and World Service managing director Sam Younger have been kept in the dark by Mr Birt and his advisers. Mr Younger admitted this week that he had considered resigning as a result

Mr Rifkind is determined to

assert his position as the minlater with direct responsi-bility for the World Service. He believes the BBC chief should not have embarked on wide-ranging changes to the Foreign Office-funded service without prior agreement from ministers and he is now insisting on his right to veto any of the proposed changes.

A Whitehall source said vesterday that Mr Birt and yesterday that Mr Birt and the new BBC chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, would have to explain and justify their plans to the Foreign Secretary personally. "We want to be sure that we are paying for an absolutely objective and independent World Service and not for Pride and Prejudice" he said.

Prejudice," he said.

Mr Rifkind's decision to call in the BBC chiefs follows mounting pressure from MPs for him to use his power to curb Mr Birt's plan to merge the World Service news operation with the BBC's domestic news machine. Last week junior Foreign Office minis-ter Sir Nicholas Bonsor said the Government would not be afraid to use its influence as the service's paymaster in order to protect the World

At least 236 MPs have signed the all-party early day motion sponsored jointly by Peter Temple-Morris, Conservative backbench MP for Leominster, Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, and the former Liberal Democrat leader Sir David Steel.



☐ The world keeps listening, page 5 □ Letters, page 8

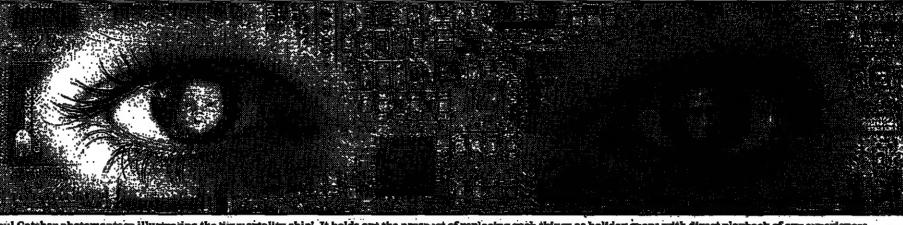
The motion says the World Service is a jewel in the BBC's crown and calls for guarantees that the distinctive na-ture of its programming and "unrivalled reputation for im-partiality" will be main-

tained. Mr Temple-Morris and his all-party group met World Service executives at West-minster last night to plan their next moves. They remain convinced that the argument is moving their way.
"It is a genuine all-party campaign against a BBC cor-porate strike," said Mr Temple-Morris last night. "There is concern from the left of the Labour Party to the right of the Conservatives. Mrs Hodge added: "Mr Birt

has simply not answered the concerns we have raised about the integrity of the World Service." Sir David Steel said: "It's genuine all-party outrage. There's a real head of steam on this issue now, to which ministers are being compelled to respond. The tide of opinion is much stronger

than the BBC expected. They will have to back down." The war of words is due to intensify today, when Mr Birt and Foreign Office minister Jeremy Hanley are due to give evidence to separate sessions of the all-party Foreign Affairs select committee, which is investigating the Foreign Office's spending plans. Mr Birt is expected to

get a rough ride. One MP said last night: "I think they will tear him to pieces if he doesn't change his



From cradle to grave on memory chip

British Telecom scientists see prospect | and blochemistry, and | holiday snaps and our | pany spent a total of of people being fitted with 'black box' mind recorders, with playback of experiences through computer links. Stuart Millar and Bill O'Neill report

OMPUTER technolvanced so far in the next 30 years that people will be able to re-cord their lives on "immortality chips", allowing them to relive their own and other people's memo-ries, according to British Telecom scientists.

The scientists, on the Soul Catcher 2025 team based at the company's Martlesham Reath laboratories near Ins-wich, have calculated that computer chips will be available with a memory capacity of 10 million mega-bytes, more than a million of today's average personal computer chip.

According to their calcu-lations, this matches the amount of data we accumulate during our lifetimes through the eye and other sensory nerves. They claim that this will allow massive amounts of information in the form of neuron pulses in the brain to be recorded on the human equivalent of an aircraft's black box via probes connected to the

The raw brain information would then be changed into a form where it could be downloaded onto com-

team, said yesterday that the potential applications for such technology were virtually limitless. "To use an analogy, we have split the atom but the bomb has not yet been built."
He said the memory chips vould revolutionise communications. People would

be able to relay their expe-riences via a plastic-coated silicon chip in their body, nemories rather than talk At the moment, optical fibre links can carry the equivalent of 1 million television channels. Dr Winter predicts that in 20 years this will have risen to 10 million channels, offer the the problitte of the complete that the problitte of the problem o

ing the capability of down-loading an entire lifetime from chip in a second. That would be very good puter and viewed on a for BT," he said. "Speech screen or transferred into

play our experiences back to each other."

Other benefits would in-clude easier teaching methods; enhanced memories for people suffering ill-nesses such as Aizheimer's Disease; and less possibility of thieves and rapists escaping justice if a record of the crime was stored in a

witness's chip.
Dr Winter denied his pro jections were scientific day-dreaming. "At the current pace of development, all five senses, everything a person does or thinks,

person does or thinks, could be stored and transmitted into computers or to somebody else," he said.
"In just 15 years, computer technology has advanced from machines with they memories to today's merely a logical extension of that trend."

According to industry es-timates, BT has invested

tists voiced doubts about the concept yesterday. Ken Hasse, an associate profes-sor at the Massachussetts Institute of Technology in Boston, said: "We don't know enough about how the brain is organised to reduce our mind or collec-

tion of experiences to the

afford to optimistic." Professor Steven Rose, of the Open University, said: "The problem is that the information recorded on the chip would be meaningless.

You have to be able to understand what's going on in not just hundreds of thousands of nerve cells, but millions of nerve cells

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Chris Winter with the Soul Catcher 2025 research team, pushing the limits of computer technology PHOTOGRAPH: MELHALME



Britain Government hopes that a reviving economy will enade Labour's poll lead were boosted by news of job vacancles at a seven-year high.

New trade rows between Britain, its EU partners and the US loom as Congress legislates to punish

companies investing

in Iran and Libya.

Finance The biotectmology: sector was under a cloud after signs that a 2143 million rights Issue by British Biotech

> had flopped. 11

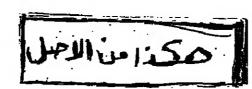
Twickenham made a dramatic U-turn to try to save England's place in

the Five Nations

Championship, with

new talks set up. 15

Obituaries 10



Sketch

Old gaffers get call to the bar



Simon Hoggart

HAVE terrible news. tidings which bode ill for our once great nation. But first, a Labour MP in-troduced a bill which would encourage people to give evi-dence against anti-social

neighbours. Next, Britain's leading anti-social neighbour, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who gave his address as 11 Downing Street, rose to

the despatch box. Or rather, he bellied up to the bar. Debates between the Chancellor and Gordon Brown now resemble a row be-tween two old gaffers in a pub. They don't like each other much, they disagree on most things, but there's nowhere else to drink, and in truth, if one of them moved, the other

would miss him. The overall effect is almost affectionate. When the deputy speaker shouted, many times, "Order!" you expected one to say. "Pint of best and a packet of scratchings — and you'd better ask that miserable bugger what he'll have, too.

The debate centred on the leaked document which ap-pears to show that civil sarvants are pondering the privatisation of the welfare state. Mr Clarke was astounded

that anyone should pay the faintest heed to this scrap of paper, which had been writte by "a Grade 7". Was this a man, a woman, or a computer Mr Clarke did not say. The mplication was that such affairs were as irrelevant as the Treaury canteen's recipe for toad-in-the-hole. Middle ranking officials

(they had been promoted from the kids in the office" which is what he'd called them on the BBC) were forever looking at different scenarios for the future. This did not turn their con-

Dancing well,

behaving badly

templations into government policy. Why, the paper was not even about the welfare

It coricerried only staffing

Judith Mackrell

Enter Achilles

2 Dance/BBC2

>----

hard-man culture, it some-times feels as if we've slipped

into a grim episode of Men Be-baving Badly. There's the same amplified grunting, the

same shots of uncontrollably twitchy groins, the same glee-fully silly disco dancing and the same beery pub interiors. But unlike the dim prattish-

ness that constitutes most of Tony and Gary's misdemean-

brutal issues of homophobia

ours. DV8 explore far more

Prix Italia, is the latest in a

series of highly successful adaptations of DV8's work. The

company's stark physical imagery creates instant televi sual effect and director Lloyd

Newson, has become very ex-perienced at making work that translates for the camera You get on screen all the emo-tional and physical risk-tak-

ing that fuelled the original

stage piece. Yet it is only a translation,

and part of what's been lost is

the work's original ease in sliding between reality and

fantasy. The stage version

was performed in a kind of

surreally shrunken pub inte-

rior, whose cramped propor-tions intensifed the men's

bullish energy and their lack

of ease in their own skins. It

provided a setting too where

we didn't make distinctions

The film, however, is lo-

between the characters'

and violence. Carla van Gooi's film.

#ATCHING the TV version of Enter Achilles, DV8's dance about

Review

requirements in the Treasury. Of course, of course, And if the Department for Educa-tion were to consider whether to train squads of hangmen for the next decade? This would not, incontrovertibly not, mean they were considering whether to introduce capi tal punishment to restore dis-

cipline in schools. Dennis Skinner wondered why Mr Clarke had abstained on the vote to increase Cabi-

£103,000. The Chancellor made a rare mistake. "The figure you quoted I shall not receive, as it does not come into effect until the next parliament," he said.

The implication — that after the election he would not be in Government — took a while to sink into Labour skulls. They are not at their best in economic debates. When they did realise they started muttering, then jeer

ing and finally roaring.

Mr Clarke airily announce what he had really meant When I come back here it won't be for the money, but for the pleasure of keeping (Gordon Brown) away." Yes, and it you believe that, you probably also believe they're not trying to privatise the welfare state. Mr Brown made a feeble

reply. He abandoned jokes, which he usually does well, he was tediously obsessed with the leaked document, and he allowed noisy Tory back-benchers to throw him off

But who needed jokes? As I gazed, the horrifying truth be-came apparent. Dr Michael Fabricant was sitting behind the Treasury ministers. He has been promoted to glory.

Fabricant! The most oleagi-nous MP in Westminster, the man who has spent years sucking up to every minister visible. The fellow who once complimented Angela Browning on her figure, in public! He is now parliamentary private secretary to Mr Michael Jack, a Treasury minister.

Last week in the Commons tea room he demanded of half a dozen Labour MPs "why does Hoggart keep picking on

"Because you keep writing to him, you pillock," replied Dale Campbell-Savours. I really wonder why I bother. Congratulations, Mike, may the laurel wreath

cated in a real pub, in real time and space. This not only

dulls the work's fantastical

literal questions about the

humour, it also bees far more



Dump Dole' revolt spreads

Party leaders say step aside

in Washington

HE threat of mutiny Revered as the most popupread through the Republican Party yesterday as senior the crashing campaign of presidential candidate Bob Dole. One prominent figure publicly urged him to with-draw before next month's convention in San Diego.

The first signs of a Dump

Dole movement came yesterday when Republican activist people talking about, 'How can we convince Bob Dole to withdraw?'," said the Cambridge-educated Ms Huffing

characters — where they are coming from, why their explosions of violence are so sudden, why they are so irreton, a close associate of House deemably vile. on, speaker Newt Gingrich and a eading figure in Washington On stage, Newson's view of masculinity already appeared thwarted by an over-simplifying polemic but the film exagerates it. Under the camera's gaze, the passage where an in-flated female doll is raped and mutilated turns particularly

On the other hand van Hoolen does take very clever advan-tage of the camera's ability to switch between viewpoints and her film makes illuminating jumps between the characters' perspectives which a stage di-rector could only cumber-somely set up. The camera also gives sharp and thrilling focus which has just won the Special Prize for Arts and Music at the to the dancers' physical skills. Eloquently lit and intuitively edited, the film deserves its

Enter Achilles heads a 2 Dance season, which also fea-tures Ross MacGibbon's adaptation of Yolande Snaith's Swinger, a film deftly sympa-thetic to the original, not least because it cuts it by half.

Based on Roland Barthes' sexy, cerebral A Lover's Discourse, Swinger splices ac-tor's speech with dance and the film cleverly tracks be-tween two separately lit and furnished spaces.

MacGibbon knows how to film choreography, cutting with the rhythms of a phrase, and giving musical as well as dramatic emphasis to certain movements in close-up. You can see him intently exploring the craft of putting dance on to the small screen.



Colin Powell: Former chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff.

lar man in America, and still the object of Republican fantasies as a potential saviour of the 1996 campaign, he refuses to campaign for Mr Dole. Criticising the candidate's noshow at a black civil rights gathering: "I think it would have been useful to present his views. But apparently his schedule

Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington broke ranks to demand Mr Dole step aside and be replaced by a new nominee.

"Increasingly there are Mr Dole's position on

Republican circles. She suggested party elders approach Mr Dole and say: "Listen, for the sake of the party, for the sake of keeping our majorities in the House and the Senate, we need to find an excuse — health,

body else on. whispers from dozens of top touch it with a 10ft barge-Republicans, panicked that pole," said Kevin Phillips, an Mr Dole's campaign is in free analyst and Republican party fall. Many have written off expert, referring to the



conservativism.

would not permit him to do that." Has also attacked abortion and affirmative

convention, and he is the only

viable candidate acceptable to

all wings of the party.
"Colin Powell isn't going to

Letest polls show Mr Clinton | saviour who could trounce | cuse him of caving in to the maintaining a 20-plus point Mr Clinton. Republican officials insisted yesterday that the chances of Mr Dole being forced to quit are slim. He has an over-whelming majority of commit-ted delegates at the August

whatever — and bring some-Her remarks came amid

his chances of beating Presi-head of the associati dent Clinton in November. hero who is still regarded as a from all sides, Moderates ac-trying to "set me up".



William Buckley: Founder of the National Review and grand old. man of US

"As things are now, Mr Dole threatens to be an entirely lost figure in American history. A loser does not necessarily remain invisible. Barry Goldwater [campaigning in 1964 for the Republicans] perma-nently imprinted his priorities on the body politic. So did George McGovern [the Democrat who lost in 1972] Bob Dole threatens to leave no trace whatever.'

All of Mr Dole's initial pri-

mary challengers are non-starters. The one who per-formed best, firebrand Pat

Buchanan, is too extreme for

party moderates and would fare even worse than Mr Dole against Mr Clinton, according

to polls. Even if it is a political im-

possibility, the mere fact that Republicans are fantasising

about dropping Mr Dole shows the depth of despair felt by his campaign.



Alphonse D'Amato: Tough senator from New York, co-chairman of the Dole campaign, and a key Republican attack dog.

Bill and Hillary Clinton's chief tormentor on the Whitewater affair. He says: "Right now Mr Dole's campaign is lacking a very powerful economic message, which I know they're working on." He also accuses him of being "unfocused" and of making a 'generational" mistake when he recently caused a furore by saying nicotine

was not addictive.

of tobacco.

religious right on abortion,

failing to send the right mes-

sage on race and causing huge damage with remarks doubting the addictive power

Gen Powell has led the

charge, attacking him for fail-ing to attend last week's con-

vention of the National

Association for the Advance-

ment of Coloured People, the

nation's oldest civil rights organisation. Mr Dole blamed

a scheduling problem and later said the left-leaning

head of the association was



Ralph Reed: Executive director of the Christian Coalition, which exercises a virtual veto over Bob Dole's choice of running mate.

While we understand

Senator Dole's desire to close the gender gap, we stress that he must remain sensitive and committed to the needs of social conservatives, who could turn out in record numbers in November and provide him with the margin of victory". On Monday, he accused Mr Dole of moving in the "torong direction" on abortion.

Hardliners have also been

ingered by Mr Dole's selec-

tion on Tuesday of Congress-woman Susan Molinari, an

abortion rights supporter, to

deliver the keynote speech in San Diego. Ralph Reed, direc-tor of the mighty Christian

But the greatest criticism is

ciencies as a candidate. "He doesn't have a clue." wrote

direction



Arianna Stassinopoulos **Huffington: Greek**born, British-educated and now a Republican hostess.

Came to prominence in 1994 when her millionaire husband, Michael Huffington, spent a good chunk of his personal fortune trying and failing to acquire a seat in the US Senate. Long an opponent of Mr Dole's, she is now willing to say so "on the record, because I feel that those who care for the party don't want to see

a débacle in November". appearance on CNN's Larry King Live by Mr Dole and his wife Elizabeth. Clearly hrritated by her husband's inability to stay "on-message", she repeatedly grabbed his hand and cut him off when he threatened to wander off the

Coalition, said the choice was a step in the "wrong Mr Dole's handlers have now ruled that he does not answer spontaneous quesreserved for Mr Dole's defitions from reporters, except during set piece interviews. Pessimistic advisers are doesn't have a clue. Wrote conservative columnist fearful that even the selection of a high-energy running mate will not help serving inlarly embarrassed by a joint stead to highlight his failings.

Germany wants to end role as EU's paymaster

Europe's largest economy seeks cut in long-term contributions

Denis Staunton in Berlin

ERMANY its annual contribution to the Bild newspaper.
European Union cut and an The EU knows that Ger-European Union cut and an

contribution. But it is not acceptable in the long term that one country bears around two-thirds of the net costs," notice yesterday that it | Theo Waigel, the finance min-plans to end its role as | ister, said in an interview Europe's paymaster. It wants with the mass circulation

overall spending cap put on many wants to negotiate a next year's EU budget.

"Germany is the largest he said. The issue was on its economy in the European agenda and he was confident Union so we can afford a high of securing a cut.

£20 billion. Less than half of this is returned to Germany in the form of subsidies. Its net contribution of £12 billion in 1994 was more than twice as much as that of the other net contributors - Britain, the Netherlands. France and

Italy - put together. The EU calculates each politicians complain that the cost of reunification and ecotaken into account too.

Germany's gross annual The present contributions and excessive burden," he ment too," Mr Waigel said. until 1999, by which time Germany will have to pay 30 per cent more than it does today. But Mr Waigel is determined to start renegotiating the sys-tem as soon as possible.

"We'll start talks at a European level next year on a fairer contributions system so that it is clear well before country's budget contribution the current agreement ends on the basis of its gross how the financing of the national product, but German politicians complain that the nised in the future. This will be about a mechanism that nomic difficulties ought to be | will protect individual member states from a one-sided - with the European Parlia- shoulder alone.

But before that, Germany by imposing spending limits on the EU budget, similar to those being undertaken by many member states in order to qualify for membership of

a single currency.
"The EU must give complete support to the member states' consolidation efforts. That means that we'll be calling for a strict spending limit on the 1997 EU budget. We'll have to have intensive talks about that in Brussels shortly

Germany is eager to shape the agenda for next year's hopes to limit its contribution Inter Governmental Conference which will determine the future shape of the EU. But Mr Waigel's statement is the clearest indication to date that Borm is no longer prepared to subsidise its partners as gen4

10 - No. 10

Strage (F

erously as in the past.
The expansion of the EU to include former Warsaw Pact countries, such as Poland Hungary and the Czech Republic, will place a new burden on EU finances which Germany does not want to

THE PROMS BEGINAT THE BEGINNING

HAYDN'S 'THE CREATION' OPENS PROMS 96. JULY 19 AT 7:30PM. EVERY NIGHT OF THE PROMS IS LIVE ON RADIO 3.

Unemployment falls to five-year low, vacancies reach seven-year high and wage rises decline in 'flexible' labour market

Double joy for Clarke on jobs

OVERNMENT hopes that a revivcial figures showed job vacan-cies at a seven-year high and unemployment dipping to a five-year low.

Wage pressures are easing, and the number of posts advertised in JobCentres is the highest since October 1989. According the the Office for

month, taking the jobless total to 2,152,000, 7.7 per cent of the workforce. Job vacanrecorded since October 1989. City economists said the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. vas enjoying a rare combination of a lower unemployment and subdued inflation, with the statistics office data show-

ing the annual rate of pay in-creases falling from 3.75 per-cent in May to 3.5 per cent last month — the first fall for

ale left the dole queue last | the fears of olde worlde ana- | in trade union power and the left the taking the jobless | lysts and the Bank of Eng- | rise in contract working to est | to 2,152,000, 7.7 per cent | land, these figures show that | plain the failure of lower unand low inflation.

> ain's new flexible labour market, according to Adam Cole at HSBC James Capel.
> "It is blindingly obvious that something has happened in the last 15 years," he said.
> "At least in the labour mar-

ket, the Tory claims of a supply-side revolution are being

seized on the upbest figures as a welcome relief from recent gloom on Wall Street. muted pay pressures vindi-cated Mr Clarke's decision to

"These figures are excellent news - and further vindica-Mr Cole

insecurity, and highlighted separate figures from the abour Force Survey which showed a rise in unemployment between March and

May, after falling the previ

was still firmly downwards. Only Northern Ireland say a rise in the number of people

The rate was up from 11.1

Murdoch takes TV control in **America**

Mark Tran in New York

Unfilled vacancies

UPERT Murdoen yesuarday became America's most powerful televi-New World Communications Group. He will now reach 40 per cent of homes in America through New World's 10 television stations, all affiliates of his News Corp's Fox

That will give Fox a mas sive advantage over rivals ABC, CBS and NBC, traditionally the three leading networks, with an unrivalled platform to launch and pro-

strategy of owning both distribution and content. The distribution power that News Corp gains will be all the more crucial as it prepares to launch a 24-hour news chan-nel, taking on CNN and the new Microsoft-NBC round the clock channel that started on

per cent of New World, owned by flamboyant New York in-vestor Ronald Perelman, who also owns Revion, the cosmetcs company. Mr Murdoch acquired the stake two years ago for \$500 million. In exchange, New World switched the affiliations of 10 of its 12 TV stations to Fox from CBS, a unit of the conglomerate

That earlier deal rocked the American TV world, leading to a game of musical chairs among the big three net

works' affiliates. It also subjected Mr Mur-doch to intense government scrutiny because of foreign ownership rules affecting American TV stations. The Federal Communica-

exempted News Corp from rules barring foreign companies from owning TV stations

interest.

News Corp will own TV stations in 11 of the top 12 markets. For has established itself as America's fourth net-work with hits including and Beverley Hills 90210 as well as tabloid TV shows such turing investigators of the supernatural, has become











Not a vote more for 'over-rated' Archer as MPs pick best books

Between the covers What old AP's like to reed and bow they releat Types of books

PS ARE an unnsu-elly diverse band in literary tastes but they most fervently agree that their millionsies

colleague Jeffrey Archer is "the most overrated author Lord Archer receives this accolade today in a survey

of the readings habits of 129 MPs. Will Button's The State We're In ties equal first with Stephen Hawk-ing's A Brief History of Time as the bestseller they feel most guilty about never having read. Salman Rushdie comes

close second to Archer in the "most overrated author" stakes, followed by the master of convoluted sentences Henry James, along with Martin Amis, DH Lawrence, Enid Blyton and Iris Murdoch. Karl

Labour and Liberal MPs. The survey, by the book-sellers Dillons, finds the most popular books this year are Primary Colors, an anonymous satire on the Clinton election now revealed to be by political commentator Joe Klein,

and Roy Jenkins' Biogra-phy of Gladstone. Politics shows most starkly in choices of "great-est political book ever". For Conservatives this is For Conservatives this is Machiavelli's treatise The Prince, about how to deceive and swindle your way through public life. For Labour MPs it is Robert Tressell's Victorian novel The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists, about how a group of impoverished manual workers discover manual workers discover that they are being de-ceived and swindled by employers and politicians.

but one named Biggles MPs most like literary fiction (31 per cent), history (20), thrillers (16) and hiography (12).

• A children's author yes-

A children's author yes 1936 — for his new work terday criticised writers of Northern Lights, said: "In True colours, page 5.

barrassed" by the idea of telling a story.

Philip Pullman, who has won the Carnegte Medal prize — first awarded in knowingness."

'IRA gang' breaks footballer's leg

old Northern Ireland professional footballer professional footballer was in doubt last night after he was beaten with nail-studded clubs by a masked gang claiming to be from the IRA.

Donal Gray, who plays for Genavon Football Club in Lungan, Co Armagh, and who has represented Northern Ireland, was operated upon at Belfast's City hospital after being transferred from Daisy Hilling Newry where he was admitted with multiple injuries.

Mr. Gray was set upon by seven or more men armed with a handgun, from bars and nail-studded clubs at his home in Barcroft Park. home in Barcroft Park, Newry, early yesterday. The

Newry, early yesterday. The gang claimed to be from fise Provisional IRA Mr. Gray was ordered into the garden where he was beaten for eight minutes. The footballer suffered a broken leg, fractured kines, nuncture wounds to his legs, and arm and head inturies.

'I lay curled up in a ball. They hit my legs first and one of the first blows was beating me. I them hit away.

Donal Gray on the attack at his home

beaten for eight minutes. The footballer sufficed a breken leg, fractured kines, puncture wounds to his legs, and, arm and head injuries.

They didn't hit my head to the very last I was up against the fence and one of them standing with shelps and bars. I closed the door and went standing with shelps and such and went put and booted the door in and said 'We want you outside'.

They didn't fit my head to the very last I was up against the fence and one of them standing with shelps and best fit for the head.

Mr Gray said he believed the consumption half we want you outside.

They door in and started squeating and screaming. One in the front gar, he put it formly head and such as the said line seed and it or going to blow your head and the said and side was the said and such as the said and such as the said and side would have some up to have been affacted.

They got me in the front gar the and head and let them hit away.

They got me in the front gar the said message for and line as the said and side was the said and side with as the affact took place. He had no hike why he had been affacted.

They hit my legs first and the said in was the said place. He had no hike why he had been affacted.

The HA were responsible and joined Glensvon. A spokesman for the club said they do it?

They fit my legs first and the said my large front fits of the would have made it into the senior team and head into the senior team and head into the senior team and head to the would have made it into the senior team and head into the senior team and head into the senior team and head to the control of the first blows was the first first was the said and senior team and head to the control of the first blows was the first blows was the said and senior the first blows was the said the said to the control of the first blows the said and test them the said to me of them.

The HA were responsible and the said the said the



He played a few games for the club after his transfer but a groin injury put him out of action before he was fit

enough to play again at the

Brian Strain, the Northern ireland representative of the Professional Footballers' Association, said Mr Gray's injuries had put his career at

In a separate attack in the

in a separate attack in the republican Markets area of Belfast, a man had his arm broken by a gang who attacked him with iron bars.

Alitance Party councillor Dr Philip McGarry condemned the attacks as "the latest in a system of violence." latest in a series of vicious beatings many of which have left their victims with long-standing physical and psycho-logical effects".

"If Sinn Fein really mean

what they've said in the last week about peace and demo-cratic methods, why don't they come out and condemn this incident and the other very vicious beatings occur," Dr McGarry said. Brendan Curran, a Sinn Fein councillor in Newry,

said: "Sinn Fehn is opposed to punishment beatings but the reality of the stituation is that this community has no proper rollies force." proper police force."
Punishment beatings by paramilitaries have risen dramatically since the calling of the IRA ceasefire in August 1994. In the 18-month period before the ceasefire there were 10 beatings by republi-cans. In the 18 months since, there have been more than 270. Loyalists carried out 51 before and more than 130

since, for the same period.



warts and verrucas; but also dries to form a unique water-resistant protective barrier designed to help inhibit the spread of the wart/verruca infection, without the need for plasters.

Bazuka is quick and easy to use a complete treatment kit that is now. the UK's No.1 selling remedy for vertucas, warts, corns and calluses.



Natural history comes alive with £12m galleries as rows of rocks in boxes left in past

Earth: Museum shakes visitors with Kobe quake

HERE was quite a large earthquake, nobody killed, one Heritage Sec-retary shaken, in South Kensington yesterday, as the Natural History Museum showed off its new £12 million earth science galleries.

Where the rows of rocks in boxes of the old geology col-lections stood, there is now a rying visitors up through a revolving sculpture of the globe, to a reproduction of a Japanese supermarket in the threes of an earthquake.

It is also the first major lottery-funded project to be completed: it received to be completed: it received to be completed: it received to be completed.

tery-funded project to be com-pleted: it received £6 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, \$1 million from the RTZ group and the museum raised over \$4 million.

The Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, was a small child when her father first brought her to meet the duck-billed platypus — her great-grandfather was knighted for correctly classifying it as a mammal — and admitted finding the museum fascinat-ing but hard work.

Neil Chaimers, director of admission with the Natural the museum, recalled that he often found the top floor described. He once queried the July 20.

use of very small typescript labels eight feet up in the dis-plays, and was assured that and had keen eyesight.

Keen eyesight is only required now for the interactive touch screens. The galler ies use state of the art tech-nology, expected to boost attendance at the museum by

More galleries, already pro-vided for in the budget, will follow over the next three

the nostalgic — which will be replaced next year by yet another hi-tech gallery.

The star attraction is the earthquake experience, which recreates the January 1995 earthquake at Kobe, in Japan, as monitored by the recruits company of a small security cameras of a small supermarket the floor shudders, soy sauce sloshes in a row of bottles on a shivering shelf, and steel pans clash, as in the distance the city sounds of alarms, sirens and crashing masonry are heard.

The new earth galleries open to the public -- combined admission with the Natural

Space: Probe in a hot spot

THE Gailleo space probe which last week sent back a picture of Ganymede, the frozen moon of Juvolcanic spot in the solar sys-tem, an international meeting of astronomers in Birming-

ham learned yesterday. Galileo flew through what space scientists think was a huge dust plume from a vol-Jupiter. Yesterday the United States space agency, Nasa, with frozen sulphur dioxide from geysers 200 miles high, and marked by dark spots where molten rock at 1,000C had poured on to the hostile

"It must be like being in the midst of active eruptions on Hawaii all over the planet every day," said Torrence Johnson, who led Nasa's inpestigations into Ganymede.

with these umbrella-shaped geysers rising hundreds of kilometres above the

football-pitch sized pictures of Ganymede, he told Cospar 96, the Committee on Space Research, which drew 2,000 scientists to Birmingham. "If there we could probably have picked it up." The probe will remain a feature of the Jovian sky, taking a closer look at the other Jovian moons, Callisto, Europa, and Ganymede,

But views of lo will, for the distant. Galileo is not allowed too close since radiation from the mother planet could disrupt the spacecraft's delicate electronics. But what Nasa scientists have seen has been

tantalising. "We want to go back to these places and study them in even more detail," said Dr. Johnson, "I think eventually we are going to want to put things on the surface of Io."



New era . . . the stunning earth science galleries, funded by the lottery, which open this Saturday PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

"It might be quite beautiful, British policewomen happy with Atlanta lot

Nil pay, high temperatures and humidity, and cockroaches, but Olympics security recruits are upbeat. John Duncan reports

nothing, zilch. The conditions are worse—dight hours standing in 100-legree heat and 110 per cent ditions are worse degree heat and 110 per cent numidity.

And the cockroaches are as in the world," said Ms Gill.

America, on alert for a terror-ist attack, and two British

work on security. Mad dogs and policewomen ... But Bernadette Gill, aged 27, from Eccleshill in West

Along with 18 other col-leagues from England, the It is the most violent city in pair's journey to Atlanta started with their answering

ist attack, and two British a small ad in the Police policewomen have decided to spend their leave here and ing for volunteers to work during the Olympics in the most sensitive areas. "The advert was tiny," said Gill, "and

July 1, and while their loose green slacks, light cotton shirts, green arm-patches and shiny golden badges give them a more jovial look than their English uniforms might afford, this is no holiday

camp.
"We knew what we were coming into," said Ms Bridewell. "Out here they shoot officers like animals and this adge means nothing. But then we could have come here as holidaymakers and been in

But it is less the guns and more the perils of daily life that concern them. The pair are billeted at Morehouse, an all-male college in one of At-lanta's rougher areas. "Condiwe were strongly advised by lanta's rougher areas. "Condi- are the of senior officers not to apply, I tions are grim and the toilets i friendly."

but, well, we're here aren't look as if they haven't been we."

They have been here since MsBridewell. "The two of us share a room that is about 16ft by 12ft with two beds, two wardrobes, two desks, and

> "There are no baths so you have to walk down the corridors to shower. And there are no curtains on the showers so we had to improvise and make our own," said Ms Bridewell. "And we had a

cockroach yesterday," adds Ms Gill. "I nearly died." The job itself is a great ex-perience, only marred by the sullen behaviour of one group of competitors. "The British are a sullen lot," said Ms Gill. "Everyone else is really up-beat and smiling and asking how you are, but the British are the only ones who aren't



Ceinwen Bridewell (left) and Bernadette Gill on their beat

13-year-old boy denies Jade killing

13-YEAR-OLD boy was remanded into secure local authority care for eight days yesterday after he was charged with the murder on Merseyside of schoolgiri Jade

Matthews.
The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, blinked pervously throughout the six minute hearing before magistrates in Bootle: He spoke only to confirm his identity and acknowledge the

charge, which he denies. His stepfather, listening in-tently, sat at the front of the

aged nine, disappeared 11 days ago after she went out to play near her home in Bootle. Her battered body was found a mile away at Netherton on the little-used Bridle Road railway sidings The boy wore a turquoise and purple jacket, a black T-shirt, blue jeans and white trainers. He was allowed to

A crowd of about 50 people watched in silence as he was driven away in a white police the

riders escorted the vehicle.
Police, who had been on
gaurd outside the courfroom, had appealed for calm. Frank Dillon, his solicitor

made no application for bail and supported prosecuting so-licitor Cuthbert Regan's ap-plication for a care order. He issued a statement later.

Mr Dillon said: "My client, who is 13 years of age, has been charged with the mur-der of Jade Matthews. He emphatically denies

allegation.

"May I please appeal for a dignified and restrained approach to the reporting of this tragic case? My client is entitled to the presumption of innocance which is the very cornerstone of our system of instice.

"It is vitally important that my client is afforded a scrupulously fair trial and that nothing is said, done or published which is likely to impede the course of justice and the due process of law. Any further comment at this time would be inappropriate."

Superintendent Ian Lati-mer, the area police com-mander, issuing an appeal for calm, said: "We ask that all of Merseyside remains calm, as by doing so we can all greatly assist the legal process and allow the needs of Jade's fam-ity to be met."

Botham denies knowledge of 'rife cheating'

England all-rounder | words were taken out of says apartheid kept him from SA, writes Sarah Boseley

MINENT professional nails or a handy bottle-top to alter its swing, but former England player Ian Botham has neither done such things nor been aware of others doing so, he told the High Court yesterday.

"That is cheating," Botham told George Carman QC firmly and repeatedly during cross-examination on the third day of his libel action against the former Pakistan

cricketer Imran Khan. The barrister and the cricketer engaged in vigorous de bate over the exact interpretation of the rules of the game "Sweat is legal," stated Botham, as a natural sub-stance with which to shine salve, as artificial substances, were illegal.

Botham alleges that an article in the Sun newspaper by Imran in May 1994 accused him of ball-tampering and therefore, in his eyes, labelled

Imran's defence is that a number of major figures in Test and county cricket have claimed that the practice of ball-tampering is widespread and that he considers it to be and that he considers it to be a constant of the considers it to be a constant of the considers it to be a constant of the co an acceptable part of the

With fellow cricketer Allan Lamb, Botham is also suing the former Pakistan captain over "an offensive personal attack" in India Today magazine, which called them racist, uneducated and lacking in Indette Gill on their beat class and upbringing. Imran, PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STELLE who denies libel, says his

Mike Atherion, the current England captain and David Lloyd, the coach, are among a galaxy of cricketing super-stars who have been or will

dence in the case.
Lloyd had admitted applying lipsalve to the ball when minish'i professional cricketers may have ing lipsaive to the ball when he played for Lancashire, Mr Carman pointed out to mears of lipsaive or sun cream on the ball, or even roughening one side with the

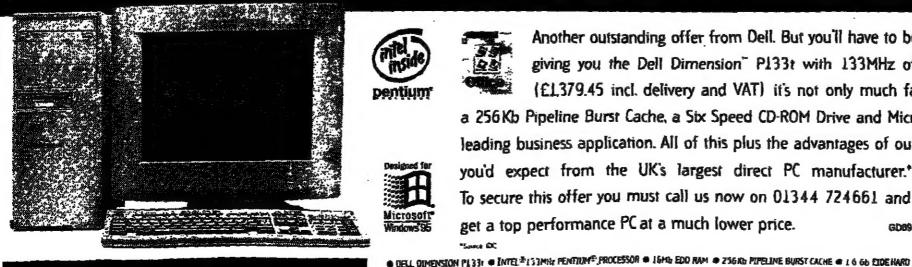
Atherton wrote in his 1995 autobiography, Mike Atherton: A Test of Cricket -Know the Game, that lifting the seam of the ball with the thumbnail, which has been flattened after many contacts with a bat, was tacitly accepted as part and parcel of the game. "I think he's got it wrong," Botham said. "I don't think it is an acceptable part of the game.

He was not using his nails on the ball in a video clip shown to the jury, Botham told Mr Carman. "What nails, sir?" he saked, spreading his hands before him. "Twe bitten my nails since I was a kid I have no nails.

Earlier, Botham insisted that he had turned down a proposed three-year trip to play cricket in South Africa for political rather than financial reasons. In 1989, the South African cricketing authorities had invited him to name his price, and he had

he refused to go, as he had refused in the early 1980s, over what he regarded as a racist slur against Viv Richards who, they had been told, would be treated "as an honorary white" in South Africa. orary white" in South Africa. "In 1989, it was also the reason why I didn't go," he

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The Rye, for diso below that include the Autobia Charles Job ating

The Guardian Thursday July 18 1996

BRITAIN 5

In terms of audience share the BBC World Service is streets ahead of its competitors. Alex Bellos on the reasons for its popularity

London calling, and the world keeps listening

Radio rivals



F you happened to be stranded on the South American pampas with nothing but a short-wave radio, it would be possible to hear the news from places as far away and diverse. far away and diverse as Cairo, Seoul and Beijing.

Even though the BBC World Service is the best known international broadcaster, almost every country has a radio service aimed at a

foreign audience. China Radio International is the most prolific, a consequence of the vast expansion during the Cultural Revolu-tion. In terms of how many hours of programmes it broadcasts it is way ahead of the pack, producing 600 per cent more than the World Ser-vice, its nearest rival. It even has a service in Esperanto one can pick up in four

But for all CRI's output, only a few million people tune in, according to the World Service's audience research

| Hours pe Estimated direct hours per week | t programme | Listeners Weekly reach (excluding re-broadcasts) |
|---|---|--|
| Chine Redio | 1,520 | World Service 120 million |
| World Service | 1,036 | Voice of America |
| Voice of America | 992 | Deutsche Welle |
| Voice of Russia | 726 | Radio France Internationale Source |
| Deutsche Welle | 655 | China Radio World Sarvice |
| Voice o | f America is the Voice of Ame ington DC, signing sic: 'Yankee Doodle | ica, Language services on. |
| Radio France internationale intro: "ici Paria, Radio France Internationale" 15 Therme music: La Marsalliabe | | |
| Bandad | e Welle | As a contract of the state of |

shoulders above the competi-tion. More than 140 million people listen weekly. This is divided into 123 million who listen to broadcasts directly on short-wave and those who listen to re-broadcasts.

The next most most popular

is disputed by independent research commissioned by the BBC two years ago, which puts the number of direct lis-teners at about 50 million.

That same research puts Deutsche Welle and Radio Service's audience research department.

The next most most most popular is the Voice of America. It next largest, with about 13 per were no the audience for the World Claims 98 million people tune cent of the World Service's share, although the German English."

station has lost audience ! station has lost audience since then.

As well as having the largest market share, which is still growing, the World Service is also the most respected internal BBC documents seen by the Guardian regarding the results of 39 studies around the world. studies around the world about trustworthiness of in-ternational broadcasters, showed that the BBC came top in 69 per cent of the

"In image terms, the BBC has no competition, espe-cially with regard to the im-partial nature of its news cov-erage," says Mary Goodyear. executive chairman of Market Behaviour, which has researched worldwide attitudes towards the World Service for the last five years.

The reputation for impar tiality was attributed to the BBC's role during the second world war, and also to the fact that the UK was no longer seen as a dominant force in world affairs.

Voice of America, which was set up to "represent the US", was vulnerable to the criticism that it was part of an American imperialist strategy to dominate the

Many people did not like the American broadcasting style. But despite this, Voice of America, was the World Service's main competitor, partly because US culture had appeal for young listeners. The German and French stations were small fry because their main services were not in English. "The world wants to speak



From its Bush House base the World Service garners a world-beating audience of more than 120 million a week

My World Service

Terry Waite

AST week I had the good Fortune to meet John Birt for the first time. The occasion was a party at Bush House to celebrate 30 years of Outlook, the magazine programme broadcast each weekday on the World Service.

The previous day I had joined a lobby in Westmir ster to protest against the changes proposed by Mr Birt. There were a lot of questions I wanted to esk

I asked him why he didn't consult with anyone at the World Service before making his announcement. He said he was engaged in an exercise that affected the whole of the BBC and con-



sultation would have meant a great deal of upset after which the same decisions would have had to be made

in six months time. Mr Birt is a clever manager and it's little use tell-ing him what the World Ser-

vice meant to me in prison or when I was isolated from accurate news in the middle of revolutionary Uganda. Of the reputation the World Service has for accuracy. What difference there is be-tween a domestic news sgenda and a global agenda He might just listen when we say: the World Service is 28 per cent cheaper per broadcasting hour than do-44 per cent less; production costs are 36 per cent less. He may know all this. What he seems not to know is that the World Service as

an institution didn't get to be number one in the world by good luck alone. It must retain its editorial indepen-dence, its international expertise and its unique

P D James

NO ONE who travels widely can be in any doubt that the World Service, delivered in 42 languages to an audience of 410 million, is trusted, admired and indeed loved as is no other interna-

We can be unreservedly proud of what it does and what it represents. I listen to it regularly and am always happy when invited to take part in

its programmes.
There is a particular pleasure in entering Bush House, a pleasure compounded of au-ticipation of intelligent ques tioning and high quality pro-gramme-making, meeting with familiar friends, and a sense of history in my memo-ries of what Bush House and



the World Service meant in the darkest days of the war. It is a building which for me rep-resents the ethos of public service broadcasting more clearly than does any other part of the BBC. It is difficult today to talk

about the ethos of the BBC in relation to management with-out being accused of sentimentality, nostalgis and an indignant disregard of the imperatives of the modern world. But the respect in which the World Service and the whole BBC are held rests on more than the quality of the

programmes.
The way in which the restructuring of the service was announced without con-suitation with those most intimately concerned was an in-sult to loval and dedicated staff and a distress to all of us who expect better of the BBC.
The World Service's standard of excellence can only be safeguarded if the restructuring is abolished, not tactfully modified, and the World Ser-vice allowed to retain its com-

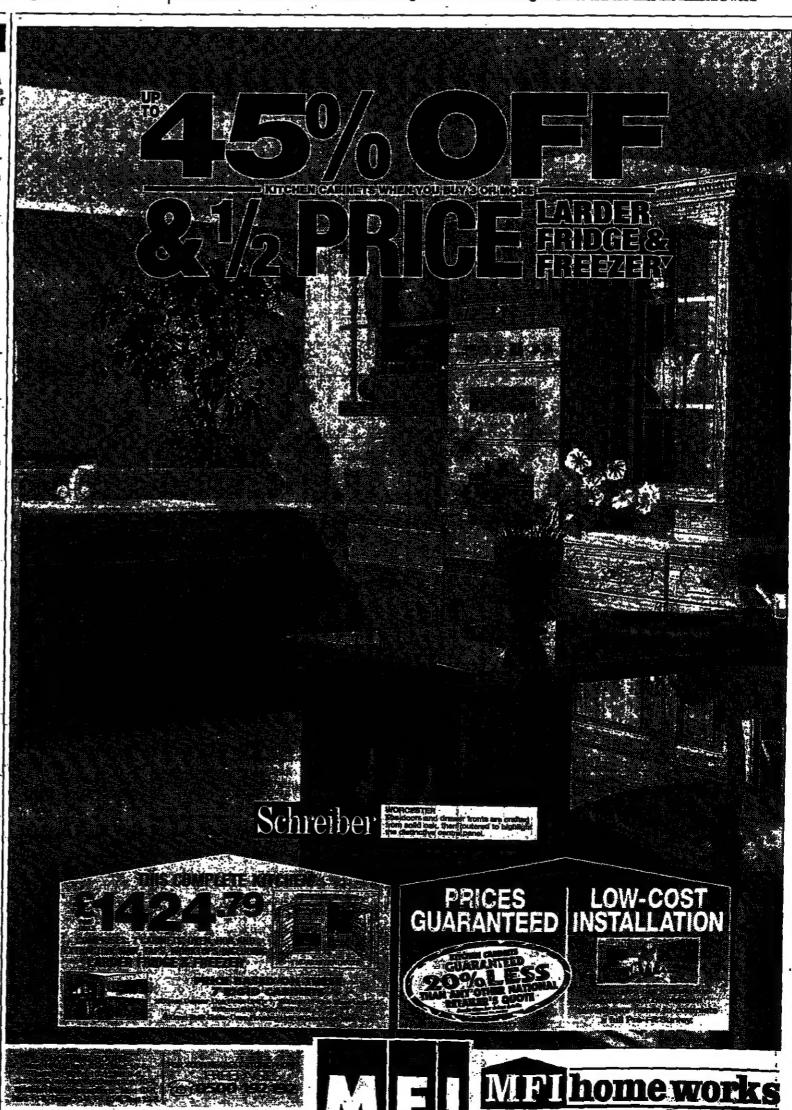
Defenders of the jewel

has built up is of great benefit to Britain's image abroad and has been achieved through the independence of the excel-lent programme makers at Bush House; further recognises that the World Services in English and the language services are inextricably linked; and calls on the BBC. Chairman and Board of Gov.

T LEAST 236 MPs have signed an all-party early day motion on the World Service moved by Peter Temple-Morris, (Conservative), Margaret, House, Margaret, Marg

Push has been compared to Catcher in The Rye; for giving voice to the voiceless. It also belongs to a genre of black writing that includes Black Boy by Richard Wright, the Autobiography of Malcolm X and Charles Johnson's Oxherding Tale.

Mark Tran, G2 page 7



Row looms over new US move to target 'pariah' regimes ● Retaliation over anti-Cuba measures still on the cards

Sanctions bill likely to infuriate EU

ian Black Diplomatic Editor

trade rows between Britain, its European Union partners and the United States are looming as Congress puts the finishing touches to legislation that will punish non-American companies investing in Iran and Libya.

After Tuesday's uneasy truce over the Helms-Burton law on Cuba, diplomats and businessmen are braced for trouble over the D'Amato-Kennedy package that will penalise firms which defy washington's attempts to washington's attempts to isolate these two "pariah"

"There are going to be prob-lems," said one US official. "It's clear that the confronta-tion over Helms-Burton has

'Interfering in the business interests of third countries is unacceptable in

been largely a matter of prin-ciple. But there is much greater scope for damaging European interests on

principle to the UK'

'Amato and Kennedy."
The bill, supported by the Clinton administration, outlines sanctions against foreign firms that invest \$40 mil-lion (\$25 million) or more in the energy sectors of Libys and Iran. Both are on the state department list of countries that support inter-national terrorism and the US has unilaterally outlawed trade with them.

The House and Senate each have their own version of the bill, which has already been watered down after British, EU and administration lobbying. The two chambers must work

out compromise legislation.

The legislation, expected within weeks, is less draconian than the Helms-Burton law. It does not allow US nationals to sue non-US firms or EU so vehemently oppose.

certainly less damaging than it was," said a Foreign Office

don't think it will resolve con-cerns about Iran and Libya," said another Whitehall official "Interfering in the legitimate business interests of third countries is unacceptable in principle to the UK."
The stakes are far higher

than over Cuba, because of the size of investments in Llbya by big European oil and gas companies such as Italy's Agip, Repsol of Spain and several Austrian and German companies. In Britain, Shell could also face problems.

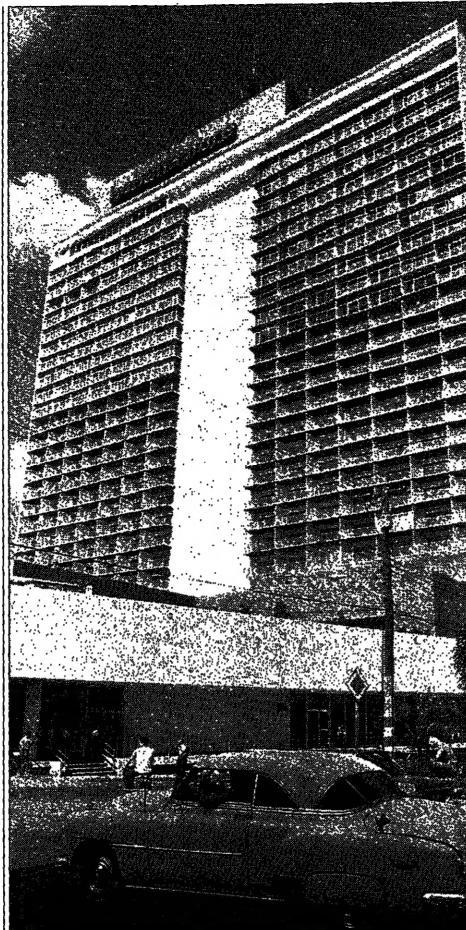
Possible sanctions by the US include denying Export-Import Bank loans, denying export licences, barring US banks from making loans of more than \$10 million (£6.5 million) a year to sanc-tioned parties, barring sanctioned financial institutions from being primary dealers of US government bonds, banning US government procure-ment of goods and services from sanctioned entitles and imposing import sanctions. US officials insist that the

proposed measures comply with the rules of the World Trade Organisation though they could violate codes of practice laid down by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.
"We have a very significant

interest in trading with Libya, and the Americans promoting it as a target is a source of concern," one British businessman said last French and Italians and the roffled feathers over Cuba the US won't carry the same weight on Libya as it did

Britain is arguing that, by acting unilaterally against Libya, Washington will weaken the resolve of other countries — not strong at the best of times — to abide by the limited UN sanctions already in force over the Lockerbie bombing affair. On Iran, US officials reject

criticism by arguing that the EU, which maintains a "critical dialogue" with Tehran, has done little to help isolate for visa exclusions. But it is it over its support for terror-an extension of the controver ism and nuclear ambitions. Germany, Iran's biggest tradtoriality" that Britain and the ing partner, is especially vulnerable on this point.



The Havena Libre hotel, used by Fidel Castro as his headquarters during the 1959 revolution, is run by a Spanish group and a potential target of the Helms-Burton legislation. Spain has guardedly applauded President Clinton's delaying action

Europe reacts coolly to Clinton delaying tactics

lan Black in London and John Palmer in Strasbourg

RITAIN and its European Union partners vesterday gave a cool welcome to President Bill Clinton's temporary compromise over Cuban sanctions but said that retaliation was etras adt an Elits

the anti-Cuba measures to come into force but delayed the practical impact for six months to appease allies who threatened tit-for-tat action. Spain, Germany and Ireland all called the decision a "step in the right direction", while Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister and presi-dent of the EU Council of Ministers, spoke of a "turnaround in European Union/United

tates relations". Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he was glad the US had "pulled back from the brink" but regretted other parts of the law. Ian Lang, the Trade Secre-

tary, warned that Britain and other EU members could still zens who were Cuban nation-impose visa restrictions on als before fleeing the 1959 other EU members could still

measures against US firms operating in Europe.

It's not the kind of range of activities one seeks to get involved in but we cannot leave our own interests unprotected and we must bring home to the Americans the unacceptable nature of what they have been doing," he

Britain and other EU mem-bers are disturbed by the growing trend in the US for President Clinton ordered foreign policy and trade foreign policy and trade issues to be driven by domestic political lobbies — which become more powerful in an election year — and then forced unilaterally on allies.

"It is not a satisfactory solution." a European Union official said. "On Monday the Helms-Burton Act was not law and on Wednesday it is. Is that supposed to be good news for us?"

The anti-Cuba measures —

The anti-Cuba measures part of the so-called Helms-Burton Act - allow lawsuits to be filled in US courts against foreign firms that own or operate the properties seized by Cuba from US citi-

US citizens and take other communist revolution. US allies have protested bitterly. saying many companies would face legal claims against big investments, such

as hotels and mines. But optimists believe the worst of the row may now be over. "I would expect the situation in Washington to look very different in six months time," one diplomat said. "For a start we will have passed the presidential elecion and the political balance in Congress is also likely to

be different. The Canadian foreign affairs minister. Lloyd Axworthy, said that Mr Clinton's compromise appeared aimed at silencing domestic criticism until after the

election.
A European Commission
official observed: "We have to stop this kind of extra-territo-rial legislation in its tracks now over Cuba or face a really dangerous escalation in transatlantic tensions if we get the Helms-Burton princi-ple applied more generally. There is too much at stake to allow trade conflicts of this pean/American partnership.

Human cost of blockade

A Correspondent in Havana

MEN, aged 27, can barely sec. She trained as a laboratory technician until her sight worsened 10 months ago. She has been waiting for glasses on the Cuban national health service which it cannot provide. She blames the long stand-ing American blockade. She said: "You can wait

months for medical care and get nothing. If you have friends in America they can send you things but if not, there is nothing you can do. You get angry." Medicine and most other items can be bought on the black market with US dol-

lars which many cannot afford. A typical monthly salery is \$13 (28.30).

A journalist, Francisco Rodriguéz, aged 48, said: "Most people are affected by this bloobeds in medicine, food, transport, water, electricity, all those basic needs. Living under

this continual lack has tives of 180 North Ameri-made Cuban people very can firms — including com-It has also made them heavily dependent on for-eign visitors. Silvana May-oral, a teacher, moved out of her flat to live with her mother so she could rent the flat to tourists for \$10 a

day. Her anger is directed at Washington. She said: "We do not know whether our government is to blame or not. We cannot see that. All I need to see is a country the size of America, when we are so small, coming into my home, the place where I was born, and telling me how to lead my life, what I must do. They are crazy sometimes, the Americans. What gives them the right?"

the latest attempt to stall. They cannot are tighten the blockade, via the Helms-Burton Act, as buy their only child shoes. She said: "The only thing that interests us is that you come and bring

mercial giants such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, General Motors, General Electric, IBM and Chase Manhattan — flew into Havana in 1994 and 1995 on business trips. The state-run Cuban media reports daily on blockade developments and today quoted the views of Europe's leaders. The blockade is the

reason for Cuba's present conomic crisis, which has worsened since the withdrawal of subsidies from the Soviet Union. Many say they would like to leave. Official figures show that 369 Cubans seeking asylum in the US have been returned since last May.

Nilda Castilio, aged 37, and her husband Ricardo, A government spokes and her husband Ricardo, man yesterday described aged 38, sell juice and Official figures show that | dollars with you, so one day more than 300 representa- | we will be able to leave."

Colose

'Anonymous' shows his true colours

The mystery author of a bestselling novel | considerably less shy about | rumours that the journal denying his involvement. | ist's daughter had boasted about Clinton's 1992 campaign has been unmasked. Ian Katz in New York reports

Colours ended yesterday when the Newsweck politi-cal commentator Joe Klein admitted that he penned the best-selling roman-à-clef about the 1992 Clinton

campaign. Mr Klein, who had repeatedly denied he was the author, was flushed out after a handwriting expert hired by the Washington Post matched changes on an early Primary Colours manuscript with the jour-nalist's handwriting.

Mr Klein's appearance at day afternoon brought to a ciose the frenzied guessing game that has gripped po-litical and publishing cir-cles since the novel ap-peared on American

bookshelves in January.
A short, middle-aged man
told a packed conference
room at the Manhattan headquarters of Random House, which published the book: "My name is Joe Klein and I wrote Primary

for the anonymous and with no secret sources."

The author of Primary The author's apparently The author's apparently considerable inside knowledge of the Clinton campaign led early betting to focus on White House aides and writers with known links to the president's

inner circle. President Clinton, portrayed in the book as a lech-erous and ruthless political opportunist, needled the baffled press corps, saying the novelist's identity was "the only secret I've seen kept in Washington in

three years".
The Post said it had obtained the early bound manuscript through a second-hand book dealer. The cover was marked: "Confidential. For your eyes only!" and several pages contained handwrit-

ten amendments. Challenged on the hand-writing match. Mr Klein asked for five minutes to consider his answer and then called the newspaper to say: "No comment" In the past he has been At a campaign event during the February presidential primaries, he shouted to other reporters: "For God's sake, definitely. I didn't

write it." Mr Klein had emerged as a prime suspect after New York magazine commissioned Donald Foster, the Vassar College professor who used a computer technique to identify a long-lost Shakespeare poem. to ana-lyse the Primary Colours

'It went from being a sporting joke to an

egregious and unacceptable lie'

manuscript. The academic discovered similarities be tween language use in the novel and Mr Klein's style of writing. Both Anony-mous and the Newsweek writer showed a fondness for adjectives ending in "y", such as "talky",

ist's daughter had boasted to classmates that her daddy was rich and noted that he had recently bought

a new house and car.
Throughout, the agent
Kathy Robbins has resolately refused to discuss the identity of her client. The publisher Harold Evans, head of Random House, insisted he did not know the author's identity. The guessing game turned the novel into a pub-lishing phenomenon with US hardback sales of more than I.I million. Along with a \$1 million (£650,000)

more than \$6 million. One mystery remains: why would a journalist go to such great lengths to reject credit for a runaway

film deal, it is estimated the novel will earn its author

"It went from being a sporting joke to an egregious and unacceptable lie," Eurt Andersen, the editor of New York maga-zine, said. "When he began categorically denying it, he got caught in a web of lies." Conspiracy theorists offer another explanation. Could Mr Klein have been "sinshy" and "sleazy".

At the same time New needed to guard his or land york's media heard anonymity very closely? working with someone who needed to guard his or her



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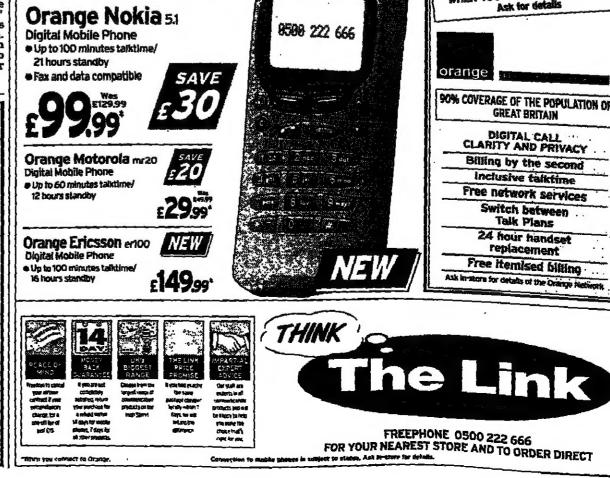
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MEPs tackle influence of lobbyists

John Palmer in Strasbourg

EMBERS of the EMBERS of the European Parliament took a first timid step yesterday towards bringing the activities of lobbyists under public scrutiny.

After seven years of incon-clusive debate, the parlia-ment agreed that in future its members will have to make annual declarations of all gifts and benefits received.

Lobbying organisations will have to reveal all payments and gifts made to MEPs.

Resolutions setting up a framework for regulating members' interests and establishing a register for lobbying organisations were passed by overwhelming majorities. Similar moves were dead-locked earlier this year, with

Main points

 Each MEP must make a detailed declaration of professional activities and list all paid activities.

Declarations will be available for public scrutiny. MEPs must refuse any

gift, payment or benefit which might influence their vote. All such gifts. payments and benefits must be declared before any relevant debate.

No MEP may accept financial support or the provision of staff or

British Conservative MEPs split three ways. All voted in favour of the new rules

supplied by the European

material except those

yesterday.
It is estimated that between 7,000 and 10,000 lobbying interests — ranging from multinational companies to eco-logical organisations — are active in seeking to away the increasingly influential Euro-

pean Parliament.
"We have taken a modest but an important step which will throw a powerful public light on the relations between MEPs and lobbyists," Glyn

Manchester West, said. Mr Ford's resolution will establish a register of members' in-terests which will be open to public inspection in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

The European Parliament will now work out the details

tailed code of conduct for MEPs, the European Parlia-ment found itself torn be-

members' interests, said: "We had to achieve a maximum consensus of a big majority of

remain bound by the stricter laws in some of our member states. But I believe the publicity which will surround the need to declare all payments or benefits received in future will have a salutary effect."

links with powerful commercial lobbying organisations. These included MEPs who allegedly accepted paid researchers, office staff and foreign trips from organisa-tions seeking to influence European legislation on war elections due on Septembealth and safety and other ber 14.

The coalition of socialists, independent leftwing parties and Greens which spear-beaded the call for stricter controls on MEPs' links with lobbies only won the day after making important concessions. Attempts to ban MEPs from accepting any gift worth more than \$500 had to be replaced with a requirement to register all "significant"

of how this should work," Mr Ford said, "But I think we all know

there is a difference between taking a bottle of wine in return for undertaking a speaking engagement or ac-cepting a cup of coffee from a multinational company, and accepting several crates of champagne or an all-expenses paid overseas trip."
In trying to work out a de-

ment found itself torn be-tween the differing traditions in member states. In the Nor-dic countries parliamentari-ans are forbidden to accept any gifts; others take a more relaxed view.

Jean-Thomas Nordmann, a French Christian Democrat who moved the motion on members' interests, said: "We

our members to ensure that anything could be done at all. "Many of our members will

Throughout the debate ref-erences were made to un-Mr Holbrooke — recalled



Richard Holbrooke addresses reporters in Belgrade after his first round of talks with Serbia's president

US envoy leaves Belgrade empty-handed

lan Black Diplomatic Editor

Silobodan Milosevic, yesterday failed to deliver the goods to Richard Holbrooks, the American architect of Rosnic's faitants Day tect of Bosnia's faltering Day-ton peace accord, in four hours of "inconclusive" talks

from his Wall Street banking job to prevent a collapse of the Dayton process — urged Mr Milosevic to deal finally with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and an indicted war criminal deemed an obstacle to Bosnia's post-

except to say they were incon-clusive," the United States en-voy said later. "Confidential negotiations

confidentiality."
Mr Holbrooke is to return to Belgrade this afternoon after talks in Zagreb with Cro-atia's president, Franjo Tudj-man, and will leave for Washington tomorrow.

Spearheading intense inter-national diplomatic activity, Mr Holbrooke warned Mr Milosevic that it was up to him to remove his former protègé or face economic enctions Dayton forbids any individ-

ual indicted for war crimes from bolding public office or participating in elections.

any progress today and I will last week after Robert that the US is ready to use the matic activity. We are putting not characterise the talks Frowick, the US ambassador threat of sanctions against all the pressure possible on except to say they were incon- to the Organisation for Secu- the rump Yugoslavia to push the parties to comply with rity and Co-operation in Europe, announced he would decide tomorrow if the ballot can go ahead or whether Mr Karadzic's Serb Democratic Party should be barred.

Mr Holbrooke is regarded as one of the few Western diplomats thought capable of cajoling rival Bosnian powers

into line with the Dayton agreement. But Mr Milosevic, seen by many as the real architect of Bosnia's war, has so far been unwilling to risk the domestic political consequences of forc-ing Mr Karadzic out of office and into the jurisdiction of the United Nations war crimes tri-

bunel in The Hague.

Mr Milosevic into line. But as so often before, the international community is divided. Russia opposes sanc-

tions and Britain backs a graduated approach that first punishes the Bosnian Serbs. There are also divisions over whether to empower the Nato-ied peace implementation force, I-For, actively to pursue Mr Karadzic, General Ratko Mladic and others.

Sounding tough, Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, warned yesterday: "All options are open . . . The road between The Hague and Pale is getting shorter, shorter and shorter.

'In the last few days there

But Russia's foreign minis-

ter, Yevgeny Primakov, said attempts to seize Mr Karadzic on a warrent issued by The Hague tribunal could undermine the Bosnian elections. The UN said yesterday that assaults on minority Serbs in Sarajevo's suburbs were worsening and the mainly Muslim Bosnian government was "doing absolutely

nothing" about it. More than 50,000 Serbs fled when the suburbs reverted to government rule under the Dayton accord, but 8,000 to 10,000 stayed after assurances they would not face reprisals.

France to slash defence forces

Paul Webster in Paris

paratroop regiment, whose spirit could not be broken even after defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, is to be disbanded after a government decision to scrap 38 elite units to create a slimmed down defence

General Marcel Bigeard, a former junior defence minister and France's most decorated soldier, was among the first to react, saying he would fight a rearguard action to save his parachute regiment.

But the ruthlessness of the measures announced yesterday by the defence minister, Charles Millon, leaves Gen Bigeard helpless.

At least 150,000 men will no longer be needed as national service is ended towns dependent on sol-diers for centuries.

The army's strength will drop from 240,000 to 140,000. A third of its regi-ments will be disbanded by next year, although the Foreign Legion and the

Eurocorps will be spared. The navy will lose ships such as the Clemenceau, an aircraft-carrier at the cen-tre of French foreign policy in Lebanon, the Gulf and

former Yugoslavia. President Jacques Chirac ordered the cuts in February when he called for an all-professional army along British lines built around a rapid action force of up to 60,000 ready to intervene outside the country.

The impact of the reorga nisation could rebound against the Gaullist-led government — the defence forces provide the party's most reliable electorate.

The hardest hit area will be the north-east, particu-larly the Lorraine. Cities such as Toul and Contrexville will lose entire bases. Apart from the doomed regiments — 11 of which are stationed in Germany — about 40 big units closely as Nancy and Verdus will

Arabs close their ranks against Netanyahu

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, today pays his first official visit to a neighbouring Arab capital, bearing assurances that his government is committed to peace in the region. But as he prepared to fly to Cairo for talks with the Egyp-tian president, Hosni Mubarak, there were clear signs of growing Arab exasperation with the new Israeli government's reluctance to spell out

its policies.

Today's brief trip was described by an aide to Mr Netanyahu as a "get acquainted visit". The Egyptians, however, will be looking for rather more than a social call. A flurry of diplomatic activity this week has brought warnings from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians that Israel cannot expect to have everything its own way in coming negotiations. Syria's emphatic rejection of any talks which do not inchide the future of the occupied Golan Heights was pre-dictable. So too was the milder chiding of Egyptisn officials whose chief concern

is to promote President Mu-barak as a leading player in the peace process.

More ominous for Mr Netanyahu were the frosty signals from Jordan, Israel's newest but staunchest ally in

The Jordanian prime min-ister. Abdul-Karim al-Kabariti, said in Cairo on Tuesday that Mr Netanyahu's uncompromising statements, espe-cially on Jerusalem and on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, were worrying.

Later, during a surprise fly-ing visit to Mr Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. Mr Kabariti spoke of concern for the future of

the peace process.

King Hussein of Jordan, whose dramatic embrace of Israel in 1994 shocked many of his subjects, is now having to steer a delicate and potentially perilons course between tially perilous course between his new ally and his Arab neighbours.

Jordan's dilemma is com-pounded by Palestinian suspi-cion that Israel could offer King Hussein a role in the West Bank, where his forces were routed in 1967. His repeated denials of any such ambition have been undermined by the continued hankering of the Israeli right for kering of the Israeli right for a Palestinian homeland east of the River Jordan.

Hong Kong man is first foreigner executed post-war as Vietnam gets tough on drugs

Those caught can expect no mercy, writes | no doubt they are catching only minor players.

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Ho Chi Minh City | no doubt they are catching authorities appear to be enforcing the death penalty mental organisations to work on curbing drug delittle mercy. Like Singapore | At least seven people | no doubt they are catching authorities appear to be enforcing the death penalty mental organisations to work on curbing drug demand and combatting traf-

LMOST nobody (A noticed when Vietnamese security men escorted Woong Chi Sinh from a Ho Chi Minh City jail to a shooting range in the suburb of Thu Duc. A firing squad unleashed a volley of shots and then—

in line with official proce-dure — one of the officers stepped forward to put a single bullet in his head to ensure he was dead.

Woong, a Hong Kong
Briton, was shot in June
last year for smuggling 5kg
of heroin, becoming the first foreigner to be exe-cated in post-war Vietnam.

He will not be the last. Two more Hong Kong men may follow in his footsteps. Ho Kam Weng, aged 34, and Kong Chong Sam, aged 36, were seized at Ho Chi Minh City's airport in March carrying false papers and, according to customs officers, 18kg of heroin.

A decade after Vietnam's communist leaders embarked on reforms and ended the country's cold war isolation, they are grappling with a surge in drug trafficking. Western experts believe the country

is being considered as a transit route by the region's drug cartels and gangsters in the Vietnamese communities of Australia, the United States and Canada. Vietnam's proximity to the heroin producers of northern Burma and its long land borders with Laos and Cambodia make it accessible for traffickers. A

long coastline adds to its allure. In the first three months of this year the authorities arrested 290 traffickers, seizing more than 32kg of heroin — as much as was reported seized in the whole

and Malaysia, Vietnam exe-cutes traffickers carrying more than a specified quantity of drugs. But unlike their partners in the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean), Hanoi does nothing to advertise its draonian penalties. Vietnam's penal code allows courts to impose

At least seven people were sentenced to death last year

years imprisonment to death for those caught with more than 3kg of opium. Perhaps prompted by the spectacle of rampant drug abuse and a roaring trade of 1994 — and 171kg of across the northern border opium. But diplomats have in China, the Vietnamese

were sentenced to death last year and another two in early 1996. Several of these were at first sen-tenced to life imprisonment but had the penalty raised to death by a higher tribunal.

just with the international drugs trade. The country has about 200,000 known addicts, most supplied with opium or its derivatives from the mountains and the tribal areas on the northwestern border with Leos. Most of Vietnam's injecting addicts shoot up with needles already used by others, accelerating the spread of HIV.

Opium cultivation has fallen sharply in the past three years through crop eradication and substitution drives - but levels of addiction have not.

A five-year government plan has been praised for bringing together a variety work on curbing drug de-mand and combatting traf-ficking. But the lead role assigned to a committee dealing with Vietnam's hilltribe minorities leaves Western drug-control ex-perts wondering whether Hanoi's leaders fully appre-

Vietnam may be equipped with a pervasive internal security apparatus for supressing political dissent but its anti-drug agency is still in its infancy.

date the threat they face.

Authorities are seeking to build up its drug-enforce ment capability as a step towards dealing with more traffickers. But the arres of an ethnic Chinese with 234kg of amphetamines he Minh City illustrates another potential menace.

Western drug-enforce ment experts once accepted official assertions that they say the possibility can-not be excluded.

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Opposition leader asks EU to impose sanctions on Burma

DURMA'S opposition bleader, Aung San Sun Kyi, will appeal to the European Union today to impose eco-nomic sanctions on the military dictatorship in Rangoon, in support of the growing national movement for democracy and human rights. She will address members

of the European Parliament in Strasbourg in a videotaped in strasoding in a vibratical interview smuggled out of Burma earlier this month by a foreign businessman.

After the video has been shown, MEPs will debate a resolution calling for

"Aung San Suu Kyi makes it clear she believes only the imposition of sanctions can help ensure the success of the novement for democracy and human "rights." Glenys Kimpock, the Labour MEP for South Wales who will move the resolution, said yesterday.

Mrs Kimpock said that the Province democracy leader had been secretely inter-viewed by a Dutch journalist, who then passed the video to a businessman.

is coming under pressure to publish its investigation into the extent of forced prison labour in Burma which, if proved, could lead to the with-drawal of special low tariffs Ireland's foreign minister

The European Commission

its relations with Rangoon.
"I will be taking every opportunity to discuss with our friends in Assan the very real concern felt throughout the European Union about the situation regarding democracy and human rights in Burma," Mr Spring said in Strasbourg

Dick Spring, is to fly to Jakarta this weekend to discuss the human rights situation in Burma with the for-eign ministers of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean). Last week, Assan an-nounced that it was upgrading

The EU is likely to follow up the meeting with Asean by sending a team of foreign

ministers from EU member

states to Rangoon to warn the

military government about the growing international reaction to abuses of human

Climate change 'worse than war' — Gummer

Paul Brown in Geneva

HE United States pro-pelled the climate change talks forward yesterday, repudiating its own industry lobby, with a White House endorsement of realistic and binding targets to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

Timothy Wirth, the under-secretary for global affairs, at-tacked 'naysayers and special interests bent on belitthing, attacking and obfuscating climate change science. So let's take a false issue off the table; there can be no question but that the findings for all most change meet the

on climate change] meet the highest standards of scientific integrity."
The US statement cut the ground from under the fossil

fuel lobby. The lobby has

tried throughout 10 days of talks in Geneva to block polif-

ical endorsement of a report

by the intergovernmental

which says pollution of the at- ests groups.

Panel on Climate Change in to power and special inter-

mosphere is interfering with Mr Wirth said there was no alternative but to tackle the problems created by climate change by cutting greenhouse eas emissions.

The US statement was one of 50 by politicians who are in Geneva to try to hammer out an agreed statement to carry negotiations forward to 1997. The talks had appeared stalled, with the industry lobby and oil and coal states blocking paths to progress. Mr Wirth made it clear that a

deal was essential to carry the

process forward.

The biggest cheer of the day went to the Environment Secretary, John Gummer. In a rousing speech he said the consequences of climate change would be at least as disastrous for mankind as the second world war. He said the League of Nations — in whose former headquarters in Geneva the talks are being held -had failed the world by giving

"That must not be allowed to happen again... The 'after you Claude' attitude to reducing greenhouse gases is not enough. I do not think anyone in this hall is so old that he or she will not be affected by cli-mate change unless he or she falls under a tram here in Geneva before the end of the

> Mr Gummer attacked Aus tralia by name for its refusal to endorse the urgency of the problem. "They are prepared to put their coal exports to Japan as a greater priority than the future of the next generations of Australians,"

seven-point plan for cutting emissions in the industrial world, including proposals for taxing aviation fuel (cur-rently free of tax).

Green groups were de-lighted at the turn of events. Merylyn Hedger of the World Wide Fund for Nature said "The fossil fuel lobby is totally blown out of the

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THE MUSLIMS were lined up on one | the Bosnian Serbs must be resisted or side of a dirt road 17 miles northwest of else a new cycle of blackmail and con-

Srebrenica. Some had their hands tied with wire behind their backs. Bosnian Serbs gunned them down from the other side, where the ground is now coated with spent bullet casings. A year later, international war crimes investigators are digging out the crumbling bodies in a muggy heat, surrounded by a cloud of bugs and butterflies. They have already exhumed 86 bodies in this

single mass grave: there are more. This is the inhuman reality, soberly conveyed in news agency reports, behind the new drive to expose, deprive of influence and if possible arrest the prominent Serb war criminals ultimately responsible for these and other massacres. The US envoy Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Dayton peace accords, was in Belgrade yesterday, trying to make up lost ground. Article IX of Dayton says that all parties should cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes - a commitment ignored by the Bosnian Serbs and treated perfunctorily by President Slobodan Milosevic. Full compliance with this provision would probably put Mr Milosevic in the dock as well as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. Instead, as the UN high representative Carl Bildt has just reported, the territory of Serbia's client state, the Republika Srpska, is harbouring up to 50 indicted war criminals. (A further 15 are on the territories controlled by the Sarajevo government or Croatia). Mr Holbrooke is seeking a lesser, but still substantial, degree of compliance — so far avoided by the Serbs - which would ensure that no such persons are involved in the forthcoming elections. Mr Karadzic has so far wriggled his way out of this commitment, and Mr Holbrooke intends, it is said, to "knock him off the political map." This is an irreducible aim, and counter-threats by

Mr Bildt has counselled caution, fearing that the result will simply be a boycott of the elections by the ruling Bosnian Serb party. Yet to do nothing will risk a much more justified boycott now being threatened from Sarajevo by President Izethegovic. In the end the crux of the problem has to be faced: as long as the leading figures accused of war crimes are at large, they will defy and disrupt the peace process.

It is true that the Nato peacekeeping force is not currently mandated to hunt down alleged war criminals but only to arrest them if they happen to be encountered. Now that warrants have been issued from the Hague, the problem can no longer be dodged. The Nato forces took over in Bosnia claiming they would act more decisively than the much-maligned UN. On this issue they have sat on their hands. Instead they should saturate with troops the areas frequented by those under indictment so that arrests can take place in the course of normal operations. Another possibility is — as France has suggested - to strengthen the Security Council mandate. Yesterday's statement by the Nato Secretary-General that "the road between the Hague and Pale is getting shorter" was a step in the right direction - if it is more than cosmetic.

Postponing the election if necessary means, of course, committing the Nato forces to a longer stay. But no convincing argument has ever been offered for their plan to pull out by the end of the year — except the pressure of US presidential politics. With Bob Dole now in disarray, need Bill Clinton care? Mr Bildt says he would prefer a "flawed election" to none at all, but the immunity given so far to these suspected war criminals is a far greater flaw — and an insult to those buried in mass graves.



Labour can't duck this challenge It must reverse the obscene inequalities it may soon inherit

ing welfare, as set out by yesterday's Treasury leak, would be wrong. And so are moves which lead to privatisation: allowing pensions to erode by being linked only to a prices index; reducing unemployment pay from 12 months to six; failing to help poor children stay in school beyond 16. But hold on. Which party is refusing to restore the earnings index for pensions? Labour. Which party is refusing to restore unemployment benefits to 12 months? Labour. Which party is still dithering over withdrawing child benefit after 16 from better-off parents to ensure poorer parents can be given generous allowances to keep their children in educa-

tion? Labour. The Chancellor dismissed yesterday's leaked Treasury paper on the "shrinking state" as unrealistic crystal ball gazing by "young kids in the office". But old kids have been at the same task too and we don't need a leak to prove that. Over three years ago when he was the Chancellor's Chief Secretary, Michael Portillo began an operation under which Whitehall's main spending departments had to review their programmes to redefine the boundary between public and private provision. Each was asked whether the services which the state was currently providing could be shifted to individuals, families or employers. Over at Social Security, Peter Lilley has been doing liament a succession of "readjust- ministers. Nothing is more important. just that by manoeuvring through Par-

GORDON BROWN is right — privatis- ments" to sick pay, disability and unrequired families and employers to plug the gaps. He did not go as far as Chile, but then the Treasury kids had better take a second look at Chile. Even there, private insurance schemes found too many people were "uninsurable".

The leak could not have been more fortunate for Labour, currently under fire from an old chief, Barbara Castie, for failing to restore the basic pension earnings index. Even more serious is its abandonment of the Social Justice Commission's guaranteed minimum pension, which would have ended means tests for almost four million poor pensioners. Of course there are some good ideas in Labour's new welfare package: a new flexibility which would allow claimants to "borrow" future earnings to get back to work; new incentives for the unemployed to take short-term work; new in-work benefits for the low paid. But the radical restructuring which was promised when it launched a second successive "think the unthinkable" review of social security has not materialised. Its big ideas, like subsidies to employers to take on long-term unemployed, lack cash. Ludicrously, it pretends it will raise more than the Tories by stopping fraud. Most serious of all, it is still ducking the biggest challenge: inequality. Labour needs to do a Lilley in reverse: a gradual but radical reversal of the obscene inequalities generated by

The vote race begins at Putney

But why Sir James is fighting David Mellor remains a puzzle

shake and tremble at the mere mention of the name of Goldsmith. The Mexicobased grocer causes nightmares among impressionable MPs in many marginal seats, with his threat to challenge any Tory who will not endorse his demand for a referendum on the European single currency. So why, of all the places in the land, has Sir James himself chosen to do battle in Putney, and why is the target of his crusade not one of the arch-Europeans of the Cabinet -Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine or John Gummer — but the lesser figure

of David Mellor? Putney is a curious choice as the embodiment of the Euromania against which Sir James is campaigning (oddly. in France he is not nearly as hostile to Europe as he is here, but he does not like us to know that). If Putney is war council housing and for its part in much for his political judgment. symbolic of anything, it is for its post-

OTHERWISE intelligent Conservatives | the "Wandsworth effect", for which rificed so much in the 1980s. It is not the site of some epic ancestral battle for British freedom against the foreign invader. It is not the site of the Bank of England or of any other symbol of British sovereignty. Perhaps we have missed something, but the choice of Putney remains an intriguing mystery.

Sir James's own answer to the question is not convincing. "It is three miles from where I live," he told the BBC this week. Leaving to one side the fact that Sir James does not seem to live anywhere in this country very often, the fact is that his UK hacienda lies in a Conservative seat, Richmond Park, represented by a Foreign Office minister, Jeremy Hanley. Quite why Sir James thinks a challenge to Mr Mellor is more resonant than one to Mr Hanley is yet another mystery, but it does not say



Why John Birt must not get his way a resignation

World Service. It is the only World Service. It is the only way we hear about them.

Birt says the World Service must not be regarded as a garden that needs preserving. I heartily agree, and believe most people who work here feel likewise. But his proposed changes have frozen us in time, and forced a commit-

in time, and forced a committed and creative work-force to devote their energies to maintaining the status quo.
Since I came to the World Service eight years ago, it has changed continually, never as fast as many of us would have liked, but the rapid developments that happened under John Tusa were subsequently

stalled largely by successive cuts to our budget. We now have pacier, more frequent, more in-depth and, yes, costlier current-affairs programmes. We, too, did rolling programmes during the Gulf war, but with exist-ing staff, working double our normal hours, and more. Now doing special programmes, or "going rolling", is part of the ethos — and yes, it's generally done out of good will, not for overtime. There are a lot of things that are different about the World Service that Mr Birt doesn't seem to know. Before his June bombshell, we were preparing for the biggest change yet - splitting

HANK you for your continued coverage of John nel running 24-hours news and current affairs. It was pretty ambitious as there was less, not more, money. The World Service would

welcome a dynamic manage ment which recognised its potential rather than thinking nostalgically of us as some vestige of Empire. We have a virtual global monopoly. No station comes close to our reach and reputation. This, despite the fact that much of our audience has to struggle to hear us on the scratchy short-wave frequencies. We must have better audi-

bility if we are to compete but in the meantime, if Mr Birt is so keen on cost-effec tiveness, why not have the World Service supplying current affairs programmes for Radio 4? We're cheaper, and with the money we could develop the sort of service we've dreamed of providing. Judy Swallow. Presenter, Newshour. BBC World Service. Bush House, Strand,

London WC2B 4PH T'S not just the future of the BBC World Service which is at stake. English, as a pure international language, also

comes under threat.

The World Service — radio and TV — is the best English Brian Pritchard. language broadcaster in the world. Language is respected

and used well I know BBC broadcasters who go out of their way to use plain English — and you can't say that of most other broadcasting organisations. The English language is Britain's greatest asset. The BBC uses it with care and skill for the millions who are listening in a nonmother tongue. Anything that threatens good plain English must be opposed. Chrissie Maher.

Director, Plain English Campaign PO Box 3, New Mills, Stockport SK12 4QP.

AT the recent Hands Off The BBC public meeting referred to by Paul Foot (Comment page, July 15), I heard Charles Wheeler put the case for an urgent defence of standards in BBC programme-making and question the roles of colleagues Tony Hall, Alan Yentob and Michael Jackson.

The ability of these men to fight for what they believe in is under public scrutiny and the coming weeks will show the extent of their moral courses. In the words of Thomas age. In the words of Thomas
Paine, "These are the times
that try men's souls". As for
women's souls — well, Liz Forgan has demonstrate 47 Derby Road, Watford WD1 2LZ.

World Service operates now is an artefact from the days when we ruled, or thought we ruled, both the waves and airwaves. The new World Service will be the waves and all waves. The new World Service will be the function of post-Thatcherite headless chickens. Perhaps it is just time to let the world have a say. Why not invite radio broadcasters from other radio broadcasters from other countries to contribute programmes, expertise and funds? Then it would be a true World Service.

David Fine. 4 Pickford Villas. Monyash Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1FG.

the canard that the World Service (formerly BBC External Services) promote "objective news coverage and analysis"? It may pride itself on being "the voice of truth", but it is truth from a western and, more specifically, an

Anglo-Saxon perspective.

BBC External Services have always been a valuable and relatively inexpensive propaganda arm for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a useful outpost of the Secret Services, and in all probability will continue as

Orchestra pits

Sir Edward Heath (Letters,

siderable amount of confu-

sion, after which one of my

colleagues said it all when he shouted "Order, Order!".

Rehearsing the Eroica Symphony, the influence of Klem-

perer, Karajan and Guilini

vanished alarmingly, but a

quick discussion during the

he was a gifted amateur.

Leader, City of Birmingham

Symphony Orchestra. Paradise Place, Birmingham.

opposition.

Peter Thomas.

-break between the first

July 15-17). There was a con

Delwyn Swingewood. 39 Friern Road, London SE22 0AU.

MANY thanks to Donna Opportunities Officer, for stating so positively what some women have thought for a long time. a long time - that Kamlesh Bahl, Chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, is not fighting the battle for women's equality (Why Kamlesh Bahl must go, July

16).
The EOC was set up to move forward the role and opportunities for all women against a background of prej-udice and backward attitudes that have prevailed for far too long. We shall need women to be concerned, active and sup-portive of each other, and institutions that will move us onward, to the day they are no longer required. The EOC is failing us in this task. This quango needs a new change in direction.

Hilda Smith. 216 Stow Hill, Newport, Gwent NP9 4HA.

FEEL compelled to call for Donna Covey to go. Her ob-noxious article does nothing to further the movement against low pay, job insecu-rity and bad working conditions for women, or anybody else for that matter.

For too long the lie that the discrimination sion of women is a greater social injustice than any other has gone unargued. The fact that the lie has been propagated by a privileged section of middle-class women, motivated out of self-interest, has not gone unnoticed by the rest of us, and that especially WHILST leader of the Phil-harmonia some years back, I was in rehearsal with includes women from under-privileged backgrounds, who have faired so poorly from the feminist crusade.

What Ms Covey so poorly understands is that women suffering from poverty, low pay and bad working conditions do not live in a social vacuum. They live in the same underprivileged com-munity as their brothers, fathers, lovers, male friends and sons who depend on them and on whom they depend. oboe, first trumpet and myself soon established a credible Poverty and had conditions create an interdependency be tween individuals in such cir-We had comparable expericumstances. An attack on the rights of impoverished ences with our then principal conductor, but his big advan-tage over Sir Edward was that women is an attack on the men of their community and 44

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Section 1

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And of the own of

vice versa. It is revealing that the two examples quoted by Ms Covey relate to the provision of carparking spaces and road as-sistance. Does she think that all impoverished women drive brand new Polos?

L Davidson. 56 Shiel Road, Liverpool, Merseyside L63AE.

More of your Irish solutions

An effective peace process should include a drastic enhancement of the Northern Ireland summer calendar New Epsoms, stadiums and Glyndebournes for the province could be as vital to the future as factories. "Today the marches, tomorrow the horse races," as Auden might Allen Synge.

Diamond Terrace, London SE10.

RESIDENTS could quite le-sions with water bombs in paper bags, wave placards displaying cartoon likenesses of loyalist personalities and provide suitable music to break up the marching step. After a few years, I prophesy they would be transformed into a carnival atmosphere.

M Overs. Gofton, Tamworth, Staffs. T would be appropriate for all peace-loving people in Ul-ster to parade through Protes-tant and Catholic areas and call it Reconciliation Day.

R Mitchell. Linksway, Upton-by-Chester CH2.

N soldiers from countries like Holland, where the Catholic/Protestant conflict has been resolved following the introduction of secular schools etc. may well have a contribution to make. J Marston. Holcombe Avenue, King's Lynn PE30.

THE solution to the marching problem is simple. It is to take a non-partisan and consistent approach by permitting all marches. John Auld. Brook Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST4.

THE Government should propose a total ban on all marches in Northern Ireland until further notice. P E Carr. Abbots Road,

Abbots Langley, Herts WD5.

Why not just ban bowler hats in Northern Ireland? Michael Jeans. Hotson Road, Southwold, Suffolk IP18.

ANOTHER PLANET. SPARES

A better place to boldy go

IM Head, leader of the of how there isn't the money Voyager satellite camera to solve the problems of poveram, thinks the images are whilst Tim Radford and his (Probe maps out Earth-like moon, July 12). Torrence Johnson reckons they make Ganymede "even more excit-ing". Donald Gurnett thinks it "probably has a tenuous at-mosphere". What a surprise. They're hardly going to say: The whole thing's a waste of money, please fire the lot of

ws."
We don't expect any better
from them, but when Tim
Radford calls the journey of Voyager "heart-in-the-mouth stuff", what does he think he's talking about? It's only a lump of metal. He should be asking: "What's the point?" I am sick of reading stories

erty and hunger in the world whilst Tim Radford and his

ilk perform an elaborate PR job on the second-biggest waste of money there has ever been (after war). If we had money to chuck around, I might be in favour of space exploration, but we haven't.

It's time we were told where this space exploration could be leading, because I am not bright enough to fore see any benefits that would outshine the end of world hunger and a sharing of

resources which could lead to Oliver Cox. 3 Wynnstay Grove, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6XG.

The adventures of Tom Sawyer

OM Sawyer, general secretary of the Labour Party. has recently aired his views on party re-organisation (Outpaper looms, July 2). This is not a mere internal matter, because the Labour Party has traditionally been a voice for the poor, the unemployed etc, and what Sawyer appears to want to do is to close it down as an autonomous, democratically organised movement.

He plans to replace the NEC with policy forums. These currently exist. Nobody knows who is on them; the members don't represent anyone; they do not report back to anyone; they are told what to discuss; they are not allowed to elect their own chair or minutetaker; and they are not allowed to vote on anything. The NEC itself will be "restructured", ie the rules rigged so leftwingers like Dennis Skinner and myself can't

get elected. And it will be con-fined to purely "administrative functions Sawyer talks admiringly about the lack of dissent in the inner discipline as Labour Tory Party. But it was Mrs Thatcher's autocratic leader ship style, and the lack of internal democracy in her party, that allowed her to buildoze

through the poll tax. Diane Abbott MP. House of Commons, London SWIA OAA

The current round of national 24-hour posts strikes ends at mid The action has not so far prevented readers from letting us have their opinlons by fax and e-mail. We hope that, if the strikes resume, you will continue to show the same ingent ity and resourcefuln letting us know your

Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt. We may edit them: shorter letters are

A Country Diary

more likely to appear

wild goats next to the A9 just south of Inverness reminded me of a meeting of the Highland Goat Club, held in conjunction with the Orkney Goat Club, at the Dingwall Auction Mart not far from Inverness. The success of the show and the fact that entries were up on previous years, with 109 entrants from 18 difwith the distributions, was in no one stage, a local reporter small part due to the efforts of persuaded me to hold one of the secretary, Douglas Scobie, and many others. The breed names - such as Toggenburg, Saanen and Alpine were fascinating, as were the goats' individual names, such as Rowangate Dinglebell and Tweedside Scilla. I had jokingly said that I would take one of my African pygmy goats, Trivia, along but, apart from the fact there was no class for the breed, as soon as I saw the standard of turnout there would have been no way I could have prepared standard of goding and goding goding and goding goding goding goding goding goding goding

..... DINGWALL: The sighting of | the way up from Lincolnshire, and I would not have liked to have been in his shoes choosing all the winners of groups and classes, with prizes such as certificates, rosettes, cups, bowls and shields. The enthusiasm was almost infectious as I watched the judging, and then walked round to see each goat in its spotless enclosure. At the nannies whilst a photograph was taken. With a beard as long as mine, the caption in the local newspaper was appropriate. It seemed strange to find only one goat at the show with horns but I was assured that horns can be dangerous when goats are being bandled. I was taken to task for calling the goats "nannies" and "billies", but the judge told me that the terms "bucks" and "does" had invaded us from America. I will continue to call Trivia to anywhere near the them "nannies" and "billies" standard of goats at the show, and will start a campaign to

Matthew Norman

HE annual search for

the country's most amusing press office or press officer appears to be over. A medium-sized be over. A medium-sized package, about right for an answering machine, arrived here yesterday morning, addressed to our personal-finance editor, Margaret Hughes. It came from pensions firm Scottish Life, and in it was a pigeon. A homing pigeon, in fact. In a "Yours featherly" letter, he introduced himself as Donald and invited Margar. Donald, and invited Margaret (one of 77 journalists to receive a pigeon) to a press receive a pigeon) to a press conference on August 12. Although the box spoke of being "RSPCA-approved", the society is furious — a response which has John Allison, at time of writing Scottish Life's marketing director and the man who director and the man who approved this brainwave of London PR firm Claren-don, "disappointed and sad". In the hope of cheer-ing him up, we have taken the liberty of putting some extra air holes in Donald's box (the bird vacated it and flew off shortly after 9am). Even now, with the words "live bird" replaced by "dead fish", it is transporting a delicious herring to Mr Allison in Edinburgh, with our warmest compliments.

LSO despatched yesterday was the very first Bolmondely Relief parcel. In it were the following items of clothing. purchased from Age Con-cern. For Mrs Virginia Bolmondely: stretchy white gloves (50p) and matching white plastic bandbag (£2.99), and a turquoise and silver shift dress (size 34); and for poor Bolmondely: an eccentric black bobble hat (100 per cent turbo acrylic; £1), a spotty blue and white bow tie (10p), and a green and white sub-Pringle woolly waistcoast (£4.99). No price appears for the dress, since it was donated from her private wardrobe by my colleague Emily Barr. Parcels such as this will be sent out regularly to the Bolmondelys (the pext one will contain a pot of Gentleman's Relish) until the new pay rises take their combined income above its current mark of nearly £110,000.

ITH the shadow-cabinet elections upon us, one MP views the frenzied plotting ITH the shadowwith amusement. Ken Livingstone even recalls how. over to him to say "I voted for you. Ken"...an achievement, as he pointed wasn't actually standing that year.

ANDY Mandelson, MP: An Apology. In yesterday's Diary, it was stated that, after a brief dispute with a Guardian writer at a civil-service reception last week, Mr Mandy Mandelson gave voice to the phrase "Nurghnurrgh nurrgh-nurrgh nurgghh-nurrgghhh"—a claim Mr Mandelson denied through his spokesman Oofy Wegg-Prosser. We now learn that we were indeed mistaken . . . there were, in fact, only five "nurrghs" and not six. We apologise to Mr Mandelson for any

HE noble Lord Archer and his wife Mary are interviewed in this week's Hello! magazine, and a splendid read it is too. It is intriguing to learn, for example, that Lord Archer is no longer interested in making money, while Mary, a former director of Anglia TV, says that Jeffrey still hankers after a government position. Perhaps he might vet achieve it, for late in his life he seems finally to have come to a measure of selfknowledge. When asked what has kept his marriage going for 30 years, Lord Archer said: "Probably the fact that we don't see that much of each other."

LL those shocked by Princess Diana's lu-natic temper tantrum on Tuesday, when she ditched almost 100 of her charities in a bid to punish the Queen for removing her HRH, are hereby referred to Tuesday's Daily Mail. There, on page eight, sane and rational Paul Johnson described Diana as "the sanest woman I've met' Yup, it looks like the Nostra damus de nos jours has done it again.



Mr Brown's fear about the future

S LABOUR ready for gov-ernment. To judge from the performance of Gordon Brown, the answer must be no. There has seldom been more ridiculous agitation from a minister presumptive than Mr Brown's reaction to yesterday's leaked document, which makes the sensational disclosure that the Treasury is thinking about the future. Mr Brown was devastated to discover that this thinking was going on 'behind closed' doors''. Can he be that innocent? He was appalled that the thinking encompassed radical scenarios for the welfare state. Are these really supposed to be deleted from the agenda of the governing classes? Mr Brown's answer to both

questions appears to be yes. His vehemence rose far above cheap politics. He was at his most thunderously disgusted. Evidently, he believes that civil servants have no business thinking the unthink-able. And he imagines that conducting such work in private is a crime against the constitution. This is the dis-

is economically responsible.
This would seem an elementary precaution. With constrained resources, expanding welfare demands and the danger of failing provision, an insurance-based approach in the next millennium cannot be axiomatically discounted. User-payment for higher education is not an anachronistic insanity. Private funding for roads is not off the edge of the map of democratic options.

The only matter for regret is

that the Treasury's specula-tions about uncomfortable matters was leaked. They should be published in full. For they expose how tentative is the thinking that politicians are prepared to engage in. These are real issues, yet politicians ticians are too nervous to address them outside the closed doors Mr Brown pi-ously deplores. Even behind doors, we must infer, Labour

For all Mrs Thatcher's hopes, we have dismally

learn that the Treasury has not been pummelled into brain-death. In some part of its operations, it sets bright young stars the task of imagining the future, especially the future of the state, for which it is contemporariselly represented. measured by the possibility of Britain descending below In-donesia among economic pow-ers, is not likely to be the priority of a government preoccupied by imminent politi-cal disaster. The pre-election period, for all but Liberal Democrats with nothing to lose, is an occasion not for exposing the future but ob-scuring it. Modish pamphle-teering, like that of David Willetts, is reduced to attack-journalism. Only unelected

mandarins are free to think ahead and Mr Brown (like, it must be said, Kenneth Clarke) thinks they should shut up. The embarrassment they cause is due to the reality they describe. This is the irony of their paper. It comes nowhere near proposing a particular course of action on any of the problems it identifies. There is nothing here for Mr Brown to latch on to, with any credi-bility, as indicating a secret political agenda. Each item is available for any scare-mon-gering spin its different audi-

is not only Europe that will tear the Tories apart, perhaps making his position impossi-ble to sustain. The case for the minimal state, along the lines of one of the Treasury's futuristic possibilities, will divide neo-Thatcherites from One Nationites more sharply than at any time in the last 17 years. Freedom from office will liberate souls in the party who are ideologically, if co-vertly, committed to a radical attack on orthodoxies they have hitherto defended.

R CLARKE sees his mission as being to make sure the minimal state does not come to pass. If the Treasury's analogy with Newt Gingrich's followers in the IIS is not be followers in the US is apt, he will win the argument. Gingrich's Contract With America has taken two years to live and almost die, its architect discredited his party divided. discredited, his party divided, his project incapable of achieving the political support he once thought was in the bag. A Contract With Britain, as the young Treasury sparks designate their most eyecatching option, already seems an unpropitious choice of imagery.
But the Tories will not be

sion. Even short of a grand reforming scheme, it will not be able to duck issues of provision that may not be resolv able purely by traditional pub lic sector means. Insurance, backed by compulsion, are bound to come into the frame of possibilities, thanks to forces at large in all developed

This will be still more true

if Labour is in power, as Mr Blair most seriously hopes, for a decade. The issues challenge the decade not the year Blair's personal style suggests that, once installed in power, he will want to address them uncluttered by baggage from the past. His party machinery gives him no chance of doing so. No segment of it would be capable of opening minds as the Treasury has done. But Chancellor Brown is the man who will one day need this Treasury facility. No doubt his thinking will be conducted behind closed doors. His offi-cials, as he said yesterday with a horrified pulling back of skirts, will not be "honest about their intentions". Se crecy will abound, insofar as government can fend off the openness that technology, as the leaked paper also laconstitution. This is the dismal paradigm our politics now follows.

The leaked document is, on the contrary, reassuring. We constipated as the Opposition.

The stated outlined to do so. There will ences choose to put on it, and different newspapers have the contrary, reassuring. We constipated as the Opposition.

them. As an account of the future terrain, however, it tells truths that no politician can get away from. In the Conservative Party, arguments about the future of the state will loom large, especially if the party is out of power. Kenneth Clarke is aware of this. In opposition, it is not only Europe that will tear the Tories apart, perhans



George Monbiot

OR the last formight, the assorted voices of reason have been in uproar about the strange case of the owner-occupier squatthe owner-occupier squat-ters. In 1977, Jim Sykes and Sheila Fahy slipped into a derelict house in Islington. They lived, according to the Daily Mail, like ghosts, nei-ther tending the front garden nor putting out rubbish, but they registered the property as their address. They ac-quired "possessory title" and, a few weeks ago, sold the

house for £103,000. The case has now been complicated by the discovery on the part of the sedulous Sunday Times of the original owner of the property, some poor old chap who, like Tess of the D'Urbervilles, was probably perfectly happy until he was told he should have been entitled to greater things. He said he would be seeking legal advice to estab-lish his rights. He does not According to the 1980 Limita-tion Act, "No action shall be brought by any person to recover any land after the expiration of 12 years from the date on which the right of the date on which the right of action accrued to him". Mr Rosamond let his chance slip by in 1989. MPs are reported to be out-

raged, and are making "angry demands for a change in the law". They are on dangerous ground. The Palace of Westminster is stuffed with landowners whose family fortunes were built on the statute of limitation. Many of the commoners, copyholders and small-freeholders who were divested of their rights hy enclosure had a solid legal case for retaining their land, but no practical means of fighting it. In the Scottish Highlands, thousands of cottars and runrig commoners were shoved off by the ancestors of some of our noble lords at the point of a pike, and forced on to ships bound Americas. The greatgrandchildren of some of these dispossessed are still

All landownership is, of course, in one way or another questionable. How many legal rights were thrust aside or superceded by William I's seizure of Eng-land? Or by the Belgae's dis-possession of the former in-habitants of Kent? The notion of the absolute ownership of land and standing property is a comparatively novel one, even in many parts of Brit-

thank them for it. While the MPs gallantly clamouring for the rights of

quietly nudged by their more calculating colleagues, some of their constituents could stir up a lively fuss. The Advisory Service for Squatters reports that most enquiries about the use of the Limitation Act come from middleclass owner-occupiers who bave surreptitiously ex-tended their gardens on to derelict land or into a de-ceased neighbour's field.

The historical limitation of land claims is an explosive issue all over the world. Germany's reunification treaty allowed for the return of property seized by the Nazis up until 1945, and the Communication of the munists from 1948 onwards, but not for the restitution of land expropriated by the Soviet occupation of 1945-1948. Six years on, the former

owners are still fighting furi-ously for recognition. In South Africa, the Department of Land Affairs — which is handing back land selzed by the apartheid government — has decided to consider only those claims arising since 1913. It has so far resisted several applica-tions dating back to the 17th century. In the former Yugoslavia, just as much as on the West Bank, historical assertions and refutations of ownership are among the sources of enduring conflict. The Helms-Burton Law currently pitting the United

States against its trading partners is all about old land claims — it imposes penalties on foreign companies owning property in Cuba which was seized from US companies or citizens during the revolu-tion in 1959. The legislation raises the question of how the plaintiffs got their land in the first place. Expropriation and fraud were, of course, the means by which all white land-ownership in the Americas and Caribbean was established.

All over the world, statutes of limitation were devised to support landowners' claims against those of the dispos-sessed. But as most of the major land-grabbing in Britain was completed long ago, the progressive way to change the law may be to reduce, rather than extend, the period of limitation. Jim Paton of the Advisory Service for Squatters suggests six years, which would bring land law into line with laws governing other forms of property. This might encou age the socially beneficial functions of squatting, is pulling empty and derelict houses back into circulation. But if MPs really do want to go ahead and repeal the Limitation Act, then let them, and we'll all have fun scouring our family trees for evidence of peasant propristorship in the 11th century. It would be optimistic, how ever, to expect the owner occupiers on whose behalf they have been huffing to

George Monbiot presents Going Back on Radio 4 tonight Mr Rosamond might be at 7.20pm

failed to become a shareholding democracy argues Patrick Donovan. So why does the Weinberg report think shares can replace welfare provision?

No one wants the cake

should now be trying to resurrect the Tory m of turning Britain into a share-owning democracy. Yesterday, a Stock Exchange-led initiative headed by some of the City's most influential figures unveiled their long-awaited study on the future of the small investor. Urging radical measures, such as the compulsory teaching of personal finance in schools, the group's chairman. Sir Mark Weinberg, sees the encouragement for ordinary people to build up personal wealth in shares as a means of

compensating for the erosion of social-security provisions, It is a controversial agenda in which the Treasury has been involved, and seems cer-tain to prompt political debate over the extent to which individuals should be responsible for their financial security. But what the Weinberg Committee does not explain is why it still believes in the concept of private shareownership when more than 15 years of give-away privatisations have signally failed to a million to well under 10

TS RICHLY ironic that persuade the British public to million over the past four the City establishment build up stockmarket bold-years. Most of these invest-should now be trying to ings. It seems symbolic that ments are so small that, even ings. It seems symbolic that this initiative is being launched just days after the flop of British Energy — the sale of the country's nuclear plant - which marked the virtual completion of 15 years of privatisation under Conser-

vative governments. Attempts to set up a "share holding" democracy was one of the central tanets of Thatcherism. Campaigns such as the "Tell Sid" sale of British Gas were designed to promote the Government's political objec-tive of boosting the numbers nvesting in the stockmarket. But it has never really worked. Far from building up ever-growing stakes in a wid-ening portfolio of different companies, statistics suggest that the typical British investor has used privatisation to make a quick buck. More than 50 per cent of the country's individual investors have no more than two sets of shares. And until the recent British

Energy float, the overall num-ber of shareholders was

after the flotation of virtually every saleable state-controller enterprise, the combined value of individual invest ments now represents just 20 per cent of the value of the London Stock Exchange. The humble Sid has been so crowded out by the growth of professional investors that. for all the tens of billions of ounds of share sell-offs, this figure is eight percentage points lower than the public's overall ownership in equities when the privatisation pro-

cess began in 1981. Instead of drumming up investor interest with cut-price vestor interest with cut-price privatisation shares, yester-day's Weinberg Committee report urges the Government to take a fundamental review out an exposure to the share market loses out on the phenomenal growth which is generated by equities — this week's sharp stockmarket fall notwithstanding. Allowing for inflation, the real value of £100 in a building-society

account over the last 35 years sides the stockmarket, Sir would be around £95. But put mote shares, the value would have soared to £900. Yet, com-ling debt and using a bank pared to the US, a tiny minority of individuals in Britain have any meaningful invest-ments in shares. More than 80 per cent of all shareholdings are worth £5,000 or less.

Thanks to the increasing casualisation of the workforce, increasing numbers of people are unable to make adequate pension provisions. At the same time, social-security budgets are being increas-ingly squeezed by the expan-sion of the retired population.

ERSUADING the public to increase heir exposure to the stockmarket is one way of belping make up the shortfall in Britof the savings market. It ain's spending on cradle to-points out that anybody with-grave welfare spending, the grave welfare spending, the Such is the importance of

taking responsibility for one's own financial future that the report is asking the Government to consider making personal finance a core subject on the National Curriculum. Be-

account. This, the committee argues, is the only way of educating youngsters to cope with the steady whittling away of the welfare state.
The Weinberg report touches on what is undoubt-

edly the most important socioeconomic Issue confronting Britain. Its findings should shake up the self-serving com munity which has for so long run the City of London. But it falls to address the larger problem of how to support the country's burgeoning under-class: that minority who have lost any chance of a secure financial future through unemployment and part-time work. This is a Britain which can hardly pay its utility bills

— let alone gamble on the Stock Exchange.

Perhaps the Weinberg Committee will succeed where Mrs Thatcher failed. But those without access to capital will be left even further behind by those able to leverage up their wealth on the casino of stock-

We keep hearing about the need for 'fair play'. But don't confuse this with the meritocracy our politicians call for, says Francine Stock; the market is never fair

Fair in love and war?

streak. The split of Charles and Diana has been accompanied by a chorus of comment. Everyone from the Queen to the Daily Mirror (and a million unheard ad-visers) has thrown in their offering. To keep the HRH or not, gagging clause or free speech, £15 million too nuch or too little - what's

right, what's fair? Anthony Julius, lawyer to the Princess, has received a bizarre press for doing his job spectacularly well. In one offensive reference, the control of the control

HERE'S nothing like a said the paper, as a Jewish intellectual and Labour supporter, was "less likely to intellectual and Labour sup-porter, was "less likely to feel restrained by consider-ations of fair play". What Julius was doing, in fact, was getting the best legal deal for his client. That is justice as practised.

Fair play is something else entirely. Fair play is a screen erected by those in power to baffle and subdue these who don't understand.

those who don't understand their system. It is useful for neutralising opposition and was traditionally seen as the particular preserve like an enclosure at Henley though the shenanigans of

a competitive environment. In the Imran and Ian exhibition match, in the High Court this week, Imran Khan has introduced an interesting inversion of the traditional criticism of Britain as a class-ridden society. Britain (or rather British sport) suffers from a *lock* of toffs. Imran claims superior rational faculties for "educated Oxbridge types... The difference in class and upbringing makes a difference." Botham expresses surprise: "I thought we'd got rid of the day of ama-teurs and professionals. To me it's open for anyone to concede. Britain, he says, is

play. It's not an elite sport." What underlies both these examples is a startling suggestion that achievement on our own merits and a sense of fair play are at odds.

Mr Major and Mr Blair
have pledged themselves to
a greater degree of meritoc-

Fat-cat pay rises hardly seem like fair play, but you could argue that they are the genuine fruits of a merit-based society. It's not the reward that is the outrage but the poverty at the other end of the scale — but then meritocracy is brutal. In Unequal But Fair, a new study of class barriers in Britain from the freemarket Institute of Economic Affairs, Professor Peter Saunders claims social mobility is already far more widespread than leftwing sociologists would

well on the way to becoming a meritocracy. No doubt those who know best how to interpret data will take issue with his reading of the runes. But he makes the point that meritocracy is indescribed as inhabiting "the try to gain the advantage racy in Britain. Yet the winners. Those who seek a want. And that upper-class world". Julius, along with everyone else in merit system is all about purely egalitarian society a compromise." winners. Those who seek a | want. And that's his idea of

reward, not compensation. will not like it since it disad vantages the less able; those who defend a system of entitlement based on privilege, acquisition or luck also believe they can only lose. Saunders concludes that inequality is not neces-sarily "unfair", so long as it rewards talent and effort.

But what is fair, once you submit to the the market? How exactly do you mea-sure talent and effort once you temper capitalism to permit the bright and ambitious to rise? The trouble with notions of fairness is not that they are free from hias, fraud or injustice but that, on the contrary, they are so subjective. As Tom Brown's schoolboy critic said: "He never wants anything but what's right and fair; only when you come to settle what's right and fair. herently competitive; there it's everything that he will be losers as well as wants and nothing that you



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THE BATTER RED CROSS IS AN EMPLITIAL HUMBANTARIAN DRICAMENTARIA WHICH WHICH THES SIDES IN ANY DEPLITE, OUR SUMMONTE IS TO HELP PEOPLE IN CRUSIS IN THE UK AND OVERSEAS, IN PEACE AND IN WAR

57. will be remem-bered as a bassist who played on the Animals' 1964 House of the Rising Sun, but his fame rests on his role as the man who 'discovered" rock's greates guitarist, Jimi Hendrix.

Last Saturday he was featured on BBC2's rock 'n' roll history, Dancing in the Street. talking about the Animals and how he brought Hendrix to London after seeing him play in a New York club. But there was more. In the early 1970s it was Chandler who fashloned Slade into one of Britain's most successful

groups via a string of stomp-ing anthems.

Chandler was born in Hea-ton near Newcastle and worked as a ship's instru-ment-maker while gigging with organist Alan Price in local bands in the late 1950s. In 1962, singer Eric Burdon joined what was then the Alan Price Combo. Legend has it that they overheard fans describing them as "animals" and took the insult for

their name. The Animals supported American blues artists, played the ritual stint at Ham-burg's Star Club and honed their version of American R&B in Geordie clubs before being spotted at the Club A Go-Go by producer Mickle Most, moving to London in 1964 and signing for EML

Their first single, Baby Let Me Take You Home, hit the top 30, but then came House of the Rising Sun. Its four-and-ahalf minutes made it then one of the longest singles ever released but the public's appetite for the grim tale propelled it to number one and back into the charts in 1972 and 1982. More hits followed be fore friction with Burdon led Alan Price to quit in 1965. The Animals soldiered on, but dabbling with drugs splint-

ered the band. It was during their farswell the recommendation of Keith | 1971, after truncating their | memory, the disappointment | always with the Expel | Richard's girlfriend, Linda | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | was a harmonious | memory | the disappointment | always with the Expel | was a harmonious | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | the disappointment | always with the Expel | was a harmonious | ness. Hendrik wrote 9 | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | the disappointment | always with the Expel | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | the disappointment | always with the Expel | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | memory | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | memory | memory | memory | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | memory | memory | name, came the top 20 hit Get | of Slade's fall from favour, de | memory | mem

Paul Touvier

HE death in prison of the Vichy official, Paul

Touvier, at the age of

81, will revive recrimi-

protection of suspected

nations over the French Cath-

olic Church's collaboration

with the Vichy regime and

Touvier, born near Nice, was jailed for life in April

1994 for complicity in crimes against humanity in connec-

tion with the persecution of Jews, the first Frenchman to

be imprisoned for this of-

fence. A former intelligence

officer and chief of the Lyons

Milice - Vichy's pro-Nazi mi-

litia — Touvier had spent much of the post-war period

in hiding in monasteries be-

fore being arrested in a mon-

astery run by a rightwing Catholic order in 1989.

Catholic order in 1989.

The main charges he faced referred to the murder of Victor Basch, president of the French League of Human rights, and his wife, Hélène; the murder of seven Jews executed in reprisal for the Resis.

cuted in reprisal for the Resis-

tance assassination of a Vi-

chy official in 1944; and an

attack against a synagogue.

criminals after the war.

HAS Chandler, tarist, having decided to pro-who has died aged duce a version of Hey Joe. Coincidentally Hendrix was performing it with his band, Jimmy James and the Blue Flames, at New York's Cafe Wha when Chandler turned up. He immediately invited Hendrix to England. On the plane James Hendricks became Jimi Hendrix, and shortly afterwards the guitarist was onstage with Britain's

"Jimi went on halfway through the set and began playing Howlin' Wolf's Killing Floor," Chandler recalled. "Eric Clapton stood there and his hand dropped off the gui-tar. He lurched off the stage. I went backstage and he was trying to get a match to a cigarette. I said: That fucking good? He'd heard 10 bars, at the most."

Chandler was pivotal to Hendrix's career, signing him nendrix's career, signing rain to a record deal, producing Hey Joe, Purple Haze, The Wind Cries Mary and encouraging the "wild man" stage act. His media management guaranteed publicity, particu-larly when it came to break-ing Hendrix in the US after a searing performance at the 1967 Monterey Festival. His claim that Hendrix had been thrown off a Monkees tour after rightwing protests

echoed in hippie ears. Chandler paid Hendrix's debts, found Noel Redding and Mitch Mitchell for the Jimi Hendrix Experience and even passed on his sci-fitastes which surfaced in Third Stone from the Sun and Up from the Skies. Unlike the parasites who gathered around when success finally came, Chandler never made a penny from the guitarist.

Professionally, they parted company in 1968 but remained close. On the night of his death in 1970, Hendrix left a message on Chandler's answering machine: I need help bad, man."

In 1969 Chandler had seen a Wolverhampton group, Ambrose Slade, and he became their manager-producer. In 1971, after truncating their

leave his home in Chambery and take refuge in a monas-

and take reruge in a monas-tery. Police repeatedly said he could not be found after an arrest warrant was issued in

1981, but on three occasions

he gave interviews to journal-

he gave interviews to journar-lists and, even after he was ar-rested, the judiciary — with the encouragement of Fran-

cois Mitterrand, a former Vi-chy official — exploited judi-

cial obstacles to delay his

However, Touvier, whose

hiding place was revealed by

had only a slim chance of es-

caping eventual retribution following the life sentence im-

posed on the SS chief in Lyons, Klaus Barbie, in 1987

Lyons, Klaus Barbie, in 1987 for crimes against humanity linked with those of the Milice. Barbie died in prison while campaigners accused the socialist government of double standards by prosecutions.

ing a German but refusing to red light district.

the weekly Canard Enchain



Big noise . . . Chandler, right, with Animals (from left) Burdon, Price, Steel and Rowberry

rock 'n' roll crazies, it's hard to find a bad word said about nes that put Slade in the forefront of glam-rock and es-Chas Chandler, And that, in a tablished them as the most career that spanned five decades in the music business, might just be his greatest successful British chart hand since the Beatles. Chandler went on to launch achievement. He leaves his wife Madeleine, three chilhis own Barn Records and other labels, then in 1976

linked up with the other ex-Animals for an album, Before We were so Rudely Inter rupted. There were sporadic reunions, and in 1983 a world tour and live album.

By this time, Chandler had severed his links with Slade returning all recording rights to the band in a characteristically generous gesture - and gone home to Type side. In recent years he had been involved with creating the Newcastle Arena while keeping his hand in producing and managing bands.

Chandler was a solid fessional, with a style remained rooted in the Geordie clubs. In manage nent he was more friend and entle giant than Mr Ten Per Cent. Despite the squabbles that split the Animals, the fights over money that heys at times sullied Headrick's

by the war years. Touvier's profile was probably too close to the ambiguous image of millions of middle-class

French people who collabo-rated with the Nazis and

made no protest against de-portation of about 75,000 Jews

sent to Nazi concentration

The son of an army officer,

he had been brought up in the traditions of Action Francaise, the anti-semitic move-

ment created by Charles

Maurras following the Drey-

fus Affair at the turn of the

Anti-semitism was enco

aged inside the Catholic Church where, like Barbie,

Touvier at first pursued a vo-

cation for the priesthood be-fore dropping out of a semi-nary. Afterwards he drifted into temporary jobs and spent

much of his time in the Lyons

camps to die.

century.

Collaborator's life in hiding

In 1971, Touvier was secretly pardoned by the Gaullist president, Georges Pompidou, after the intervention of Catholic officials. The subsequent outcry forced him to leave his home in Chambery

dren and a son by an earlier

1966 I was playing lead guitar with the Loving Kind at a club near Baker Street — it was owned by the one-time washing machine king John Then the Animals Bloom. was my first walked in. It meeting with Chas Chandler, and Eric Burdon even sung that night with our hand. I met Chas again that September. Could I play bass guitar? he asked. No, but I could learn, I replied. Off I

went to the pub with Jimi Hendrix and thus did I join what Chas was fashion what chas was issuconing into the Experience. That night he lent me 10 shillings to get the train back to Kent. Working with Chas — if not always with the Experience is the same of the experience in the same of was a harmonious busiwrote 98 per

Following a brief undistin-guished period as a conscript before the fall of France in

1940, he was given a dispatch

clerk's job at Chambery rail-way station and was about to

be sacked for theft when his

father obtained for him a post

as intelligence officer in the Service d'Ordre Légionnaire,

which became the Milice in

Although he constantly

claimed in his secret post-war interviews that he was only

an administrative official,

Touvier was denounced even by his friends after his arrest

as a gangster and torturer

His trial showed that while

working alongside the Ge-stapo in the Rhones-Alpes

region he ran protection rack-

ets and denounced Jews so

that he could seize their

property.

But his claims that the

Archbishop of Lyons, Cardinal Pierre-Marie Gerlier,

helped to him to evade cap-ture after the war added to

the controversy over Church support for Vichy. While Tou-vier's claim that the Church leader intervened because he

January 1943.

Mitchell and I put it down and Chas produced the first two, wonderful albums, Are You Experienced and Axis Bold As Love. By 1968 Jimi had developed a bit of an attitude. Chas quit, and advised me to do the same. It had become too big be told me, too silly, I should do my own thing, which is exactly what I did with Fat We toured extensively and had Chas as our nanager. But I was still tired after the Experience and Fat Mattress deflated.

Yet Chas and I kept in touch. My last visit to his ewcastle home was with Mitch Mitchell. We redubbed our parts on a (still) unred Jimi Hendrix Experi ence album. And we spoke last month about the chance of Mitch, mysalf and Chas getting paid some still miss-ing Experience royalties. Some things in rock don't change. God bless Chandler!

met Chas Chandler in the early 1960s when I was a journalist on the New Musical Express and he was with the Animals. My friendship with that singularly - sometimes - honest, funny, brutally man lasted until his

Chas did not brook interference when he had committed himself to an arteither stayed on the train to its destination or were asked to jump off. Thus when he told me of Jimi Hendrix it was of the "black Elvis". His was a total commitment. He sold up his instruments. everything, putting himself on the line, gambling his judgment against the world. The habit remained. He

knew ideas were no good without attention. So after Slade had released four flop singles. I half-jokingly suggested one night that they turn themselves into skinheads. I awoke the following morning thinking of the four decent, long-heired, non-racist blokes. I rang Chas: "Look," I said, "about those

heircuts he replied They've been to the barbers and they're out buying boots and braces." Their first hit came a couple of months later. Chas had the courage of his convictions.

Chas (Bryan) Chandler, musician and manager, born December 18, 1938; died July The Guardian Thursday July 18 1996

Alan McGilvray The Aussies' **Test match** special THE stature of the cricket | to England, joining the BBC

commentator, Alan McGilvray, who has died aged 35, was never more emphasised than during the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's battle with Kerry Packer's Channel Nine. Denied the rights to televise Test cricket in Australia, the ABC produced a jingle celebrating its great radio asset. "He's everything to cricket, Cricket's everything to him, you know the game is not the same without McGilvray. McGilvray began his auto-biography inevitably en-titled The Game is not the Same - with the sentence. "Cricket has been my life and Yet his career as my joy." Yet his career as Australia's pre-eminent com-mentator started almost by

After leaving Sydney Gram-mar School he joined his brother in the family shoe making business, playing weekend cricket with the Wa verley and latter Paddington clubs. His all-round talents as a left-handed opening bas-man, right-arm medium pace bowler and outstanding close fielder led to a place in the New South Wales State side and in 1935, on the retirement of Alan Kippax, to the

in his first year of leadercantaincy. ship, as he was about to set off with his team to play Queens-land in Brisbane, ABC invited him to send back a daily close-of-play summary. Alan always suspected that it was his mentor, the former Australian Test player, Monty Noble, who had volunteered him for this task.

McGilvray described this first broadcast as "very amaast as 'very amateurish," but more until he was asked by the New South Wales Cricket Association to choose between the captaincy and radio. Radio won. He wrote later that there was "a challenge, an excitement embodied in broadcasting cricket that I simply could not

The challenge and excita-ment were realised in 1938, when the ABC decided to cover the Ashes Test series in England by "synthetic com-mentaries." Unwilling to trust the unreliable quality of the land lines from the other side of the world, they assem bled a commentary team in a stadie in Sydney, who were informed of play by cable from the Test ground in England. Flesh then had to be put on the bones of the cryptic de-scription of each ball before another cable arrived with the next over's details. Sound effects were rudimentary, but the "commentators" almost began to believe they were at ine ground.
In 1948 McGilvray did come | 1910; died July 17, 1998 the ground.

commentary team of Rex Alston, John Arlott and EW Swanton. His style became as familiar a part of radio coverage of Australian tours in Britain as it was in his own

It was meticulous in its atcountry. tention to detail. His rhythm never varied, always up with the moment of action as the bowler bowled or the stroke was played. If a description needed further elaboration he would return to it with, "Il go back on that." The delivery was even in tempo and vol-- too quiet, often, for ume — too quiet, often, for the rest of us to hear in the commentary hox without headphones, as he hunched over the microphone, usually following every ball through

binoculars. In Australia he became the In Australia be became the inchpin of the radio team; Test matches were covered by McGilvray, the visiting country's man and a local sports broadcaster. In England he fitted in with the Test Match. Special team on nine Australian tours. Brian Johnston played one of his most celebrated practical jokes on

McGilvray . . . radio star

McGilvray when he waited until he saw Alan take a bis-cuit before asking him a question, with the resultant scatter of crumbs.

very real affection for the Listeners' letters serious Australian, who had no great natural love of Poms. was touched, though, on his last day's Test commentary at The Oval in 1985 by the huge pile of valedictory mail. We gave him the final spell of commentary on the match. Sadly for him it was on an Australian defeat.

Peter Baxter

Alan McGlivray, cricket com

Birthdays

Kenneth Armitage, sculptor, 80; Lady Bingley, former chairman, National Associa-tion of Mental Health, 71; Edward Bond, playwright, 62, Richard Branson, founder and chairman, Virgin Group, 46; Dave Cash, disc jockey, 54; George Doggart, cricket his-torian, 71; Nick Faldo, golfer, 39; John Fraser, chairman Ciba-Geigy, 65: Senator John Glenn, former US astronaut, 75; Simon Heffer, columnist, 36; David Hemery, athlete, 52; Elizabeth Jennings, poet, 70; Burt Kwouk, actor. 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, former director-general of intelligence, 81; Dennis Lillee, cricketer. 47; Nelson Man-dela, president of South Af-rica, 78; Michael Medwin, ac-Facing justice . . . Touvier in 1994 PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL GANGNE tor, 67; Anthony Miles. prostate cancer but died in publisher, 66; John Naughton, Writer, 50; Richthe prison hospital at Fresnes, near Paris, a jail used by the Germans and Viard Pasco, actor, 70; Martha Reeves, singer, 55; Tom Raworth, poet, 58; Nathalie Sarraute, novelist, play-wright, 96; Hugh Stephen-

Stott, journalist, campaigner for women, 89; Jim Watt, boxer, 48; Lynette Willoughby, engineer, past president, Women's Engineering Society, 47; Yevgeny Yevtushenko, poet, 63.

Death Notices

ARASSTHONG. On July 14 1996 peacefully as Bury Hospice and of Holombe Brook, Bury. Fred Angus Armstrang aged 8 years. The service and committed will be at Overdate Cromstorium Bolton on Monday July 22 at 2,30pm. All enquiries to Silletts Funeral Service. Spring Lane, Radelfie.

NORTH thee Hack. To Sharon and David on July 11th, a son. Alexander Philip. When babies are born to are grandparents: Richard and Patrica Hack and Peggy North cend love and thanks to the most volcome gift. Love to a first nephew from Clerc, a first time auntie.



Bowled over

ANY READER seeking new markets for frozen chickens shouldn't pin too many hopes on a striking idea from Down Under. A New Zealand pub, known by the strictly non-politically correct name of "The Fat Ladies Arms" is reportedly selling frozen chickens to be used as bowling balls in a game called "Naked Chicks." Connoisseurs of bad taste are encouraged to take part with the rallying slogan: We pluck 'em, You bowl 'em," while the first prize is a free round of drinks. The game was temporarily out-

Prevention of Cruelty to Ani-

mals went spare and complained that a poor example was being set. However, pub owner Shayne Armstrong set owner Snayne Armstrong set the chickens rolling again following a surge of publicity on talk radio shows. Perhaps local chicken producers will pick up on the craze by turning out frozen birds in 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16lb varieties. "I feel like chicken tonight" ets a whole new meaning in the Meat Trades Journal

Little loafers QUESTION: Why don't more babies work? Excuse me, did I say more? I meant, why don't any babies work? After all, there are millions of babies around, and most of them appear to be extremely underem ployed. So why aren't bables working? I'll tell you. Walk down any street, and within a minute or so you will undoubtedly come across a baby. The baby will be lounging in a futzing around with a stuffed lawed after the Society for the

that babies are lazy...One recent summery morning. I walked across Central Park on my way to my own place of employment — where by the way, I have to be every day whether I want to or not. The park was filled with babies, all loafing around and looking happy as clams. They love sun mer. And what's not to like? While the rest of us, weary cogs of industry, are worrying about an annual report and sweating stains into our suits, the babies in the park are relaxed and carefree and

mostly nucle — not for them the nightmare of tan marks, let alone the misery of summer work clothes. And what were they doing this afternoon? Oh, a lot of really taxing stuff; nap ping snacking on Cheerios, demanding a visit with various dogs, hanging out with their friends—everything you might do on a gorgeous July day if you were in a great mood, which you would be if you didn't have to work for a living That morning. I was tempted to stroller, maybe snoozing, maybe tippling a bottle, maybe suggest a little career counsel. ling to one of these blithe creatures, but, as I approached, the Teddy — whatever. After one good look, it baby turned his attention ferodoesn't take a genius to realize

ciously and uninterruptibly to one of his toes and then, suddenly, to the blade of grass in his fist. I know that look. I do it on buses when I don't want anyone to sit next to me. It always works for me, and it worked like a charm for this Iseem-to-remember-telling-you-I-was in a meeting baby. I was out foxed and I knew it, so I headed for my office. As I crossed the playground, weaving among the new leisure class, I realized something. The reason why babies don't work? They're too smart. Susan Orlean on those lazy little loafers in the New Yorker.

Royal tuck THE QUEEN prefers a mini-mum of fuss and simple food but certain standards have to be adhered to. In addition, Her Majesty is always accompanied by three detectives who must also be provided for. The Queen dines out no more than half a dozen times a year, and always with the same people. She has recently made regular trips to the Princess Royal and Captain Tim Lamence's London tain Tim Laurence's London

flat in Dolphin Square. Princess Anne cooks and serves the food herself and the Queen is a great fan of her daughter's cheese souffle. The Queen likes most types o food, but is especially partial to a fillet of sole or salmon with fresh vegetables, followed by an avocado salad. The Queen Mother and

had spared Jewish families just before the liberation was never proved, the affair only emphasised the cardinal's

support for the Vichy leader, Philippe Pétain, an ex-

ample followed by all but a

handful of the French hier-

Since his trial, Touvier had

made several applications to

Princess Margaret dine out much more frequently, in private homes and in restaurants. They both enjoy parties and meeting new people. They will often stay late, forgetting that some of the other guests have to be at work early in the morning. The easiest members of the Royal family are the Princess Royal and Prince Edward. They are content to go to friends' flats in Battersea, or cottages in the country where everyone eats in the kitchen, and help themselves to simple bowls of pasta and salad followed by cheese or a dessert from Marks and Spencer. The Princess Royal is quite happy to lend a hand with the clearing up afterwards.

But, there is no doubt that the restaurant which is most

popular with the royals is the dining-room at Claridges. Dining the royal way in

Paul Touvier, war criminal, born

April 3, 1915; died July 17, 1996

chy as a torture centre.

Paul Webster

New flavours

RAYMOND Coyle, entrepre-neur and MD of Perri crisps in Ashbourne, County Meath, spots a gap in the BSE free meat market and sets about thinking, "The thing is", says Coyle, "bison meat has less fat and cholesterol



Bison crisps . . . The Face

kota bison grazing the field next to Coyle's factory and he has plans to bump that up to 100 in the next year. Check out Raymond's crisps which will be hitting the nation's shops this month. No end to the bizarre effects of BSE on this country. Reported in The Face.

son, Professor of Journalism, City University, 58; Mary

healthy meat and I always felt

there was an opportunity for

So there are 30 South Da-

that"

Competition

CLEAN-cut American sailors in Persil-white uniforms walked tall along the streets of Dun Laoghaire. Teenage girls tagged along — some not so teenage — and occasion-ally you could see a handsome guy with three or four admirers throwing themselves at him. What could a poor sailor do? Was it a reflection on the inadequate performance of the Irish male? Are we so taken with the hurling and the road bowls that we cannot attend to our women? Do our women get so little romance from their

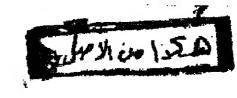
than beef or chicken. It's very | men that they must flock to the harbour when the boat comes in? We Irishmen need to exam-

ine our consciences on this matter. Our virility is being called into question. Next thing they'll be saying we're queer. But now it is too late to throw down the gauntlet to the Americans. The JFK sailed out on Sunday afternoon so quietly that one felt the poor sailors were too exhausted to even wave goodbye. Competition arriving in the

form of sailors on the USS John F Kennedy parked in Dublin Bay causes Pat Byrne in the Irish World to wonder what's wrong with the Irish male. Jackdaw would like to apologise for accrediting an extract called Camp follower on July 2 to the Irish Globe. It was in fact from the Irish World.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. Email jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield



Biote Wonder &

City bids for

frm snub

Heseltine cheered by cleared

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brushes : rate cut 1

1,23

CE TO BOTH

City bids for curriculum place, page 12

Incentives annoy in North-west, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Biotech rights issue flops

'Wonder drug' firm snubbed

ian King and Paul Murphy

RITAIN'S fledgling biotechnology sec-tor was left under a cloud last night after the £143 million rights issue by British Biotech, the sector leader,

Market sources said that fewer than half of British Biotech's shareholders had taken up their rights, leaving the group's underwriter, Kleinwort Benson along with assen wort Benson, along with some the response to the cash call both sub-underwriters, had been disappointing. Brit-50 City sub-underwriters, had been disappointing Britwith millions of pounds ish Biotech would still

Heseltine

cleared

cheered by

Bluewater

ICHAEL Heseltine and Lend Lease chairman

Stuart Hornery (right) yes-terday launched construc-tion of the £700 million

Bluewater Park regional

shopping centre in Kent, writes Roger Come.
The development, on the opposite side of the QE2 bridge at Dartford from the

Lakeside centre at Thur-

rock, will include 275 shops

when it opens in 1999, Ex-

pected to attract 30 million

visitors a year, it will be one of the last regional malls after a change of gov-ernment policy on out-of-

town shopping.
The development by Lend

Lease and Blue Circle In-

dustries will create 7,000

construction jobs and give employment to 6,000 staff

ter said it was evidence of

the economy's strength and

a vote of confidence in the

Thames Gateway area,

which was 'no longer the

back doorstep of a capital city which faced Heathrow

coming the front doorster

facing the Channel Tunnel

the ports and the rest of

PHOTOGRAPH: STEWART GOLDSTEIN

worth of unwanted shares. British Biotech shares closed down 67p at 1963p, against the 2050p rights price, after ear-lier climbing above that cru-cial level.

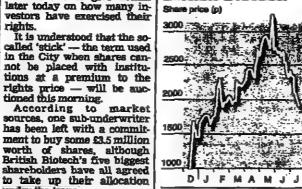
It means that Kleinwort and the sub-underwriters which include Morgan Gran-fell and Mercury Asset Man-agement — will have auto-matically been left with shares worth less than they agreed to pay for them. Sources at Kleinwort in-sisted last night that, while

would still

ment to buy some £3.5 million worth of shares, although British Biotech's five biggest shareholders have all agreed under the issue. In addition, one of the five has decided to show its sup-port for the company by buy-ing more than its entitlement. Last night, a spokeswoman for British Biotech said that

receive its £143 million. Klein-

British Biotech



the rights issue, it was "rela tively happy" that it would still be receiving its money. "The rights issue is fully

money, and everything here remains on track," she said. The failure of British Biotech's rights issue marks the end of an extraordinary period in which the shares have shot up from just under 25 each a year ago to a peak of 238.25 each at the end of May, before falling back.

During that run, attention has focused on marimastat the company's anti-cancer wonder drug. Analysts be-lieve sales of marimastat which recently started 'phase III' trials after which a drug stands a 70 per cent chance of reaching the market — could hit the £1 billion mark early in the next century, although much more work is required

At the same time, several have become extremely ket's bull run over the past 18 wealthy, and Keith McCullagh, the group's chief executive past week.

lions of pounds worth of share options.

Several analysts insisted last night that, despite the failure of the issue, the sec-tor's image would recover. One said: "This issue could not fail because British Biotech is now such a size they would always get their money. It's too big to fail. If it hadn't got the cash it would not have been able to continne its plans in the way that it wanted, and that would have left it in serious trou-

Others said sentiment towards stocks like British Biotech had been hit mainly technology stocks have been British Biotech directors in the vanguard of the mar-

Clarke needs to curb his instinct



Edited by Alex Brummer

NYONE who listened to Kenneth Clarke on the Today show rubbishing the kids on his own staff and the cranky right-wingers who drew up Newt Gingrich'. "Contract with America" could not fail to recognise that the Chancellor is one of those rare modern politicians who relies on his wits — not on some text drawn up by his

It is the same sound in stincts which have led the Chancellor twice in 15 months to take on the Governor of the Bank of England on interest rate cuts and come

out on top.

In July when Mr Clarks ordered a quarter point reduction in base rates to 5.75 percent, despite strong reservations from Eddie George, he

was rolling the dice. Focusing largely on the out-put side of the economy, he noted the downbeat prospec for manufacturing, the over all weakness of growth and the fall in output price inflation. He seemed impressed that wage settlements remained extremely moder-

That judgment has been borne out with the slippage in average samings in July despite a strong labour mar - back to an annual rate of 3.5 per cent from 3.75 per cent. Except in the boardroom and the Commons, employees appear willing to make sacri-fices on the sarnings front.

point in the economic cycle particularly given the UK's modern inflation experience — when it is perhaps better to subjugate instinct to experience and number crunching. Mr Clarke has made much of his determination not to make a dicey public finances position any worse, by priming the pump with unsustainable tax cuis. Similarly, he ahould listen to Mr Geroge and not play fast and loose with interest rates.

Some of the positives on Mr Clarke's side in July, includ-ing a stronger pound, already are vanishing. The downward ressure on the dollar has dragged sterling down too some 7 plennigs from its Ger-

Signs of a consumer boom which on past form could spin out of control, are also pres ent. The bullish results from the Woolwich demonstrate the new firmness in the hous-ing market, which already is producing a wealth effect and the possibility of some equity withdrawal.

The Governor has expressed concern about monetary growth, pointing to buoy ant consumer demand and noting that exports and investment may pick-up, even without an interest rate cut. Mr George was on the deck with the than Governor, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, at the time of Nigel Lawson's late-1980s fling and is only too aware of the risk. Unfortunately, for the mo

ment the Governor can only use moral sussion to corral the Chancellor's enthusiasm for further cuts, which could be inspired in the coming weeks by a Bundesbank rate

reduction.
Until the Bank of England enjoys more independence, of the kind proposed by the Lib-eral Democrats in a new policy document, the risks of stop-go rather than a smoother cycle will be ever

Postal error

VEN as British Energy shareholders count their losses in Monday's shambolic privatisation, un-repentant ministers are pre-paring a further contentious sell-off

Privatising the Post Office will be at the heart of the Con-servative Party's manifesto. The last attempt, two years ago, failed because Tory backnchers warned that would be deeply unpopular.

But, as we reported yester-day, Trade Secretary Ian Lang is spearheading a fresh attempt to break this political log-jam. The latest idea is to split the Royal Mail into 11 regional monopolies, invite private firms to bid for franchises to run them and keep the rural network of post offices safe in the public sector.

The result, Mr Lang hopes, will be Tory rebels appeased and the privatisation bandwagon put back on the road. But the Royal Mail carve-up is an awkward hybrid of two other, far from successful, privatisations — electricity and rail. The 12 regional electricity companies have proved to be cash rich, local monopolies delivering benefits to shareholders the expense of customers and steff. Even six years after their privatisation, the regulator is dragging them kick-ing and screaming towards

competition. The first by-product of the 25 rail passenger franchises has been the erosion of importent benefits like through ticketing and universal pricing. Neither model has proved effective in isolation. Combined, they are entirely mappropriate to the Royal Mail, which is a highly successful national business precisely because it provides a universal service at uniform

and affordable prices. Even those other enthusi-asts for postal privatisation, the right wing think-tanks, believe the latest idea to be barmy. Recognising the benefits of a national service, they would prefer to see the Royal Mail developed more like BT where competitors pay access

charges to use the network. Mr Lang will be hoping to silence his critics with a promise to cut the price of posting a letter by 5p. Stamp prices went up only last week because the Treasury, desperate for cash, is sucking increasing amounts out of the Post Office — nearly years. If Mr Lang is forgetting why prices are going up, vot-

mortgage discounts but

with its traditional heartland

in the South-east — the soci-

ety had also benefited from the recovery in the housing market, which has seen the number of households with

negative equity halve in the

But savers paid the price

for aggressive discounting on

the mortgage front, with de-

pressed returns pushing sav-ings balances up by only £245

million. The society, mean-while, widened its own profit

margin from 1.97 per cent last

John Stewart, the chief ex-ecutive, said the Woolwich

year, to 2.11 per cent.

second quarter of this year.

Chancellor brushes aside rate cut fears

Filehard Thomas

ITY analysts were yesterday predicting a summer of dispute be tween the Treasury and the Bank of England after confirmation that the governor, Eddie George, opposed last month's interest rate cut. The minutes of Mr George's

June 5 policy meeting with the Chancellor. Kenneth Clarke published yesterday, show Mr Clarke brushing aside the bank's inflation fears to trim a quarter-point off the cost of borrowing. In his advice to the Chan-

cellor, the governor warned that easing monetary policy would "simply exacerbate the potential inflation pressure further ahead by adding to domestic demand which already available — looks set to accelerate".

Mr George went on to cau-tion that rates would need to be tightened at some point for the Treasury to hit its infla-tion target of 2.5 per cent. Economists said the tension between the two men was likely to worsen as the economy picked up steam and the tion neared.

Alex Garrard, analyst at brokers UBS, said: "All the ingredients are here for further disagreement at future monetary meetings."

Mr Garrard said that the chances of Mr Clarke concedslim, despite of the Chancellor's insistence in the minutes that he was prepared to reverse the cut if consumption became too strong.

"No post-war Chancellor has put rates up just before an election." he said. "I cannot see Mr Clarke bucking the

said that with commodity politicians."

costs and prices at factory gates remaining muted, and the pound strong on the foreign exchanges, a cut to 5.75 per cent would not "cause any significant inflationary risk".

Commentators said subsequent economic data had backed Mr Clarke's stance especially yesterday's news of

a drop in the rate of wage "Had Eddie George been aware of this in early June. his opposition may have bee somewhat tempered," said Adam Cole, at HSBC James

Capel.
Some market-watchers are pencilling in a rate cut as early as July 30, when the next meeting will take place. Mr Cole said the scope for further cuts in rates could soon be reduced by monetary tight-ening in the US.

"The window for cuts is narrowing," he said.

The Liberal Democrats

seized on the divide to push the case for an independent central bank, to remove monetary policy from political

Treasury spokesman Mal-colm Bruce said: "It is now clear that Ken Clarke has dumped his inflation targe and replaced it with a re-elec-

Monetary policy should be set by a policy making coun-cil at a new UK Reserve Bank, he said. In the long run, Mr Bruce said, independence would en-hance credibility and lower the interest the Government

has to pay on its debt. Over five years, up to £3 billion could be saved, he said. Party leader Paddy Ashdown said the squabbling be-tween the Chancellor and the governor underlined the need for action, "The time has come to take control of short term interest rate decisions The Chancellor, however, out of the hands of

Young won't stand in way of BA link

Keith Harper Transport Editor

HE British Airways alliance with American Airlines will not be blocked by the Government, which will nevertheless protect the interests of smaller competitors like Richard Branson to ensure they are not forced out of business, it emerged yester-

A plan for an independent tribunal with power "to sus-pend the fares of a carrier ted by the British Govern-ment to the Americans at the beginning of a new series of bilateral talks today.

support of the City Take-over Panel in its battle

against a planned European Union directive on the rules

In a report published yes-terday, the Lords' Committee

on European Communities

said the directive, aimed at standardising protection for

shareholders and at provid-

ing minimum guidelines on

the conduct of takeover bids,

It added that the Govern-ment "should strive to protect

Over the past two months

senior City figures have launched a fierce rearguard action against the directive,

which threatens to supplant

the tried and tested City Code

— the rules applied to take-overs and mergers in Britain.

The report argues that any

gains in the form of harmoni-

ention across Europe "would

be outweighed by the risk of

damage to existing arrangements in the UK which are

accepted on all sides to be en-

the position of the penel".

should not be adopted.

governing bids

fight against EU directive

The plan was cutlined to the Commons transport select committee by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, yesterday. tary, yesterday.
"My department sees no

reason to block the alliance." he said The Government wants tighter mechanisms to protect fair competition, particularly for small and new entrant carriers, which Sir George said were "vulnerable to abuse of a dominant position by large carriers, either through predatory pricing or capacity dumping, which have the object of forcing competitors out of business".

Sir George said there

should be a procedure for

the Lords' committee, had

conceded that the "City Code" was probably the best system

The EU has been trying to revive a proposal, first tabled

seven years ago, where mem-bers states would each set up

separate supervisory authori-ties to regulate takeover bids.

that adopting the EU proposal would mean the Takeover

Panel losing its "extra-legal" status and would probably in-

crease the amount of "tactical litigation" among companies involved in takeover battles and their savieers.

that the current process of "soft harmonisation"

where member states are al-

ready adopting broadly simi-lar rules to deal with take-

overs - should be allowed to

"If that process needs to be accelerated both the Commis-

sion and (EU) Council could

give it direction and encour-

gement by means other than

the directive," the report

tailed rules.

hering to a set of de-

currently within the EU.

pected they would be com-pleted before the November presidential election. As well as the proposed alliance, the talks will cover how a more open market could be introduced for transatlantic

flights.
Sir George said it was crucial for British airlines to get fair access to international travellers using the large do that Britain should continue to have a strong share of the

He wanted the forthcoming

negotiations to cover access and capacity restrictions at Heathrow and Gatwick. Another government aim was the gradual removal of controls on fares to the US.

The Office of Fair Trading is examining whether to recommend that the alliance should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. An investigation by the MMC would take considgrable time and there is pres sure on both sides of the Atantic for a quick decision. Sir George suggested that the issue of slot availability at Heathrow was not as crucial as some American carriers. which want access to the air-

CBI refuses to Peers back Takeover Panel's back any party in run-up to It notes that EC Commistion officials, in evidence to the election

> RR Confederation of Brit-ish Industry yesterday refused to endorse any politi-cal party as it launched its manifesto for the next general election, unites Celia Weston. eral of the CBI, said his organisation hoped to have an intalligent dialogue with all political parties. "We are willing to discuss policies but not willing to make a party

pering in a Global Recoomy, is a distillation of previous policy statements which have been the subject of extensive consultations with members. It says the next government should concentrate on creating a stable economy, skilled and flexible labour markets, and be committed to member

political endorsement,

ship of the European Union. Low inflation, continued tight control of public spending, a strong focus on education and training to improve skill levels are priorities, as is an additional £2.5 billion a vear investment in transport CBI differences eith Labour

□ Does not support national minimum wage ☐ Opposes windfall tax on privatised utilities ☐ Supports Social Chapter opt out, but finds "encouraging" Labour's commitment to resist loss of UK veto through extension of qualified majority voting

Awaits clarification on "no penal tax rates"

CBI differences with Tories □ Opposes tax cuts

☐ is unequivocal about EU membership ☐ Wants to keep option open on EMU □ Concerned about capital spending cuts ☐ Wants more money invested in public capital

infrastructure. Mr Turne said the CBI did not want a return to the corporatism of the 1970s. But government could create the context within which business can be

Woolwich purchase price goes up with housing market

Torona Humber

THE resurgence in the housing market helped Woolwich Building Society increase its profits by 29 per cent to £183 million during the first half of this year — raising the mortgage lender's price tag for any predator by a minimum £500 million to more than £3 billion.

The stakes in any bidding race have now been raised from a starting price of about 22.6 billion to 23.25 billion \$2.5 billion to \$3.25 billion, following yesterday's results which show that gross lending grew by 123 per cent to \$2.9 billion, swelled by the acquisition of a Midland Bank French mortgage book.

Excluding the Midland acquisition net kending — after autistice. quisition, net lending — after

repayments — grew to El

would be happy to see an end or substantial reduction to "It is time that the savers' ininto balance and we would be in favour of ending big dis-Lending was buoyant, not counts and cashbacks only because of competitive the market would allow." counts and cashbacks when

TOURIST RATES - SANK SELS

Austria 1.975 France 7.5750 Austria 15.77 Germany 2.2426 Belglum 48.15 Greece 350.00 Hong Kong 11.75 India 55.68 Cyprus 0.8910

New Zealand 2.20 Norway 9.70 Portugal 232.00

Singapore 2.1550 South Africa 6.69 Spain 189.25

Stock Exchange task force aims to encourage wider share ownership and financial responsibility Children 'need money lessons'

Patrick Donovar

ADICAL proposals to teach every schoolchild in the country how to manage his or her money are to be put to the Government by a Stock Ex-change-led task force set up to look at ways of turning Britain into a share owning de-

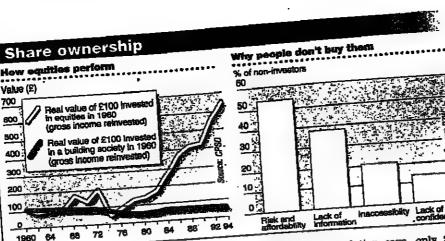
The plans, first outlined in the Guardian, have been drawn up after more than six months of study by a committee which includes some of the City's most powerful fi-

Unveiling the report, Sir Mark Weinberg said that the financial future has become so uncertain that schoolchildren need to be taught to take responsibility for their

own financial affairs. The so-called Weinberg committee is suggesting that personal finance be put on the national curriculum. Sir Mark said. every aspect of basic money management should be taught, ranging from the handling of a cheque account to dealing with consumer

welcomed in principle by Doug McAvoy, general secre-The prop Doug McAvoy, general secre-tary of the National Union of hers. He accepted that eeded to cope with financia matters, but warned there could be problems incorporating this in an "overcrowded national curriculum"

Sir Mark announced the proposals as part of a wideranging package of measure aimed at helping boost the number of small investors.



squeeze on Social Secu-funding. The report said: With the numbers in the main saving cohorts of the adult population forecast to

ingly important because of with the position in other developed countries, may not be able to provide the level of retirement support and longterm care currently enjoyed. The report discloses that, although 62 per cent of the

cent own shares or unit trusts. Up to 1.3 million people have the means to invest in the stock market but have no equity holdings.

The number of people with

stake in the stock market has more than trebled in the last 10 years," Sir Mark said. "One in four adults in the UK now owns shares or unit trusts. However, despite the significantly higher returns shown by these investments over the long term, nearly wo thirds of liquid wealth is

"If people are to take over responsibility from the state for providing for their own retirement needs, we have to ncrease the number of invesincrease the number of investors and to encourage existing investors to put a higher proportion of their money into share based investments. Wider shareownership was

important to the business community because it helped companies develop customers from their shareholder base and boosted stock market li-

teaching of personal finance. the task force also advocates: Changes in the tax regime which favours some forms of long-term investments over others. It also wants the simplification of tax affecting

• Better marketing by the Stock Exchange to help people understand how share trading works. Surveys showed that potential inves tors are deterred from buying shares because of the perceived complexity of the mar-

 Attempts by companies to communicate better with shareholders.

 Making it easier for individuals to buy shares in new flotations. However, it supports the controversial removal of a rule compelling companies to include an offer small shareholders in any public offering.

The Guardian Thursday July 18 1996 Genes make insurers wary

•HE insurance industry is appointing a genetic adviser and is producing a code of conduct in the hope of preventing scan-dals and fending off criticism that it is complacent about the problems posed by genetics.

Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers, said yesterday the proposed appointment "indicates the determination of the insurance industry to keep up to date with genetic developments and interpret them sensitively and accu-

rately".
New genetic tests are emerging, bringing the prospect of life and health insurers using them to predict people's health and to dict people's nearth and to help set insurance premi-ums. Insurers already in-sist that people reveal the results of genetic tests they have had. The adviser's appoint-

ment was announced ahead of a parliamentary debate on human genetics on Fri-

A year ago MPs on the science and technology committee accused insurers of complacency about the uncomfortable questions raised by their use of genetic information — such is the way in which people with certain genes might face prohibitively high insurance premiums.

The MPs gave insurers year to produce proposals about how the industry will handle genetic information - something the industry has not done. The Government rejected the deadline but said last month that the ABI should respond rapidly" with a code of practice for bandling such information.

The dilemmas raised by insurance companies using genetic test results were highlighted earlier this. ek by a report from the market research company Mintel, which said that "individuals with faulty genes may face difficulties ing employment and affordable insurance cover in

Institutions to fight United's board payout

Roger Cowe

NITED Utilities, the North-west water and electricity company. faces an unprecedented revolt at next week's annual meeting, when several institu-tional shareholders will vote against the company's longterm incentive scheme for

The row coincides with the launch of a pressure group that will campaign for tighter utility regulation. The Public Utilities Reform Group (PURG) is backed by the public sector union Unison and supported. by Labour's regulation spokes man, Richard Caborn.

Its launch yesterday was accompanied by research show-ing that the majority of MPs, some of them Tories, believe that excessive pay and other scandals have damaged the

questioned want tighter regulation and believe utilities need to change the balance between shareholders, cus-

tomers and employees. United Utilities faces a veto of its new directors' bonus cheme by financial institutions who want bonuses to be cons who want concises to be carned only by exceptional performance, as demanded in last year's Greenbury report.

One fund manager, who is considering voting against the scheme, said: "Manage ment should be delivering something extra. Under this scheme, they might do very well for not doing a hall of a

Company secretary John Tetlow insisted last night that only one institutional share-bolder had indicated it would oppose the scheme, to be presented to shareholders at the annual meeting on Friday of

"We have discussed this

with a whole tranche of major shareholders. I can tell you, I am not surrounded by revolt. It has been blown up out of

But he accepted that other shareholders could formally signify opposition by the proxy voting deadline of next Wednesday. Following discussion with

the Association of British Insurers and major sharehold-ers in May, United Utilities amended the details of its scheme. The multiple of salary which can be earned was cut from 150 per cent to 87 per cent, the level of performance at which bonuses begin was increased, and an earnings per share target was added. At the suggestion of some shareholders, an annual bonus element was also added.

But critical institutions have complained that these detailed changes did not address the fundamental issue that it was too easy to changed specific things but they have not changed the spirit of the scheme, commented a disgruntled "They talked to the

ABI but they ignored most of what they said." The multi-utility company is one of several that have ignored key elements of the Greenbury recommendations on long-term incentive plans, according to a report pub-lished this week by share-holder adviser PIRC on the first anniversary of the

Greenbury report More than two in five companies will pay bonuses for performance which is below the average for the comparator group, as in the original United Utilities scheme. The utility group shares with several companies an earnings growth target of only 2 per cent — in line with expected economic growth.

A night view of the National Trusts's 19th century Waddeson Manor near Aylesbury, for which Lord Rothschild, management committee chairman, shortograph June suck yesterday collected two awards from the Lighting Industry Federation for outstanding lighting design

hairman sticks to his guns **Embattled P&O chair** long-term incentive plan for | Lord Sterling is unlikely to fall into line, although P&O is than a number of bosses who have been unseated recently.

Outlook

Lisa Buckingham

ORD Sterling, the autocratic chairman of the erty empire, is a fighter. It was his puglistic prowess which saw him arrive at P&O in the first place as the man most likely to be able to see off the unwanted takover ad-

vances by Trafalgar House.
But, despite this week's breathing space given to P&O by Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, which offers Channel ferry operators the chance to co-operate against Eurotunnel, Lord Sterling will have to muster all his combative skills if he is to survive at the helm. Isolated mutters of discontent among investors have co-

alesced into the type of insti-tutional behind-the-scenes campaign that can bring boardroom change. But a number of fund managers point out that Lord Sterling is an altogether tougher target for the disgruntled

"Don't forget that (Lord) Starling is still an Establish ment figure. He has hoets of powerful friends and anyone rising up against him would run the risk of being highly unpopular," said one fund

An intimate of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and an adviser to a succession of trade ministers, Lord Sterling certainly has influence. And, until less than

gone virtually unchallenged. There has been no 'big mistake" to focus on. More a gradual realisation that, during the pest five years, Lord Sterling has presided over a collapse in shareholder value. The company has invested heavily for the long term in

ships and other big-ticket items. That has cost a princely 23 billion, but at yesterday's share price of 492p,

Profits (£m)

performing in line with, if not better, than their competi-tors, But the aggregate of that is a return on operating assets of just 9.6 per cent last year, when British industry veraged 16 per cent. P&O has decided to cut investment in bulk shipping. sell some property assets, pull out of peripheral businesses and float Bovis homes next year. There could be an extra £10 million to £15 million 8 year on Channel ferry profits, but that could be short lived. Eurotunnel cannot go away

and will have to make a competitive response. Investors appear to want more. Many remain uncon-vinced of the commercial logic holding the group's various operations together and see conglomerates as unfashionable. They are eager for lu-crative de-mergers and have become increasingly bad tempered about the group's corporate governance standards,

the 11 divisions which com-

prise the sprawling group are

notably the recently installed loaned Dr Wadsworth a tic and Dr Gregg both jacket and tie. How fortunate it n't the Athenseum, or anywhere posh like that.

UST five photographs of the Lord Mayor, Sir John Chalstrey, grace the 12 pages of the July issue of City View, the Corporation's bulletin for Square Mile residents. By the standards of previous incumbents, this is positively modest. The View's editor has done his best to compensate for the low picturecount, right there hood for Lord Mayor."

Windsor Castle and St buy-British message appears not to have America's Lutron company

come up with something more imaginative will intensify following the publication UBS transport analyst dichard Hannah of a persua-

sive case to de-merge some of the jewels in the P&O crown. He says cruise shipping and property should be demerged, in a move that could improve shareholder value by 30 per cent to 23.9 billion. else takes it.

understood to have contem-plated something that at one time would have been the impossible — withdrawing from container shipping.

The major question, however, is whether big institutions feel sufficiently aggrieved and have the stomach to force Lord Sterling into radical action or out of the boardroom while someone

News in brief

Costain defends plan for reconstruction

COSTAIN, the besieged construction group, insisted yesterday that the reconstruction plans being put to shareholders next Monday are the reconstruction plans being put to shareholders next Monday are the "only realistic proposals" to secure the company's future. The company, which issued its statement in response to recent press comments, said the proposals represented the culmination of several months of talks.

Earlier this month, Costain announced a 273.6 million share issue

Earlier this month. Costain announced a £73.6 million snare issue that would give a 40 per cent stake to intria Berhad, a new Malaysian investor. However, Kharafi — the Kuwaiti investment group which together with Saudi-based building group Raymond International holds a 19 per cent stake in Costain — said yesterday that it expected holds a 19 per cent stake in Costain — said yesterday that it expected. the plan to fail, since Costain would continue to run up operational losses. — Ion King

BR chief will stay on

BRITISH RAIL chairman John Welshy will stay on for a year after a general election to complete the privatisation of the industry or to advise an incoming Labour administration on how

the process could be reversed.

This role emerged yesterday as the industry set up the Railway

This role emerged yesterday as the industry set up the Railway Forum to fill the gap left behind by BR, whose many functions have been taken away from it by the private sector. Mr Welsby mave need taken away from it by the private sector. Mr weisby made it clear that the forum was not a "BR Mark 2", but he argued that the case for the industry needed to be put clearly to government without any issues of political partisanship. — Keth Harper ment without any issues of political partisanship.

Frozen food shares slide

ICELAND, the high street frozen food retailer, yesterday saw almost \$60 million wiped from its market value after warning that first half profits would be about 10 per cent lower than this time last that prouts would be about to per cent lower than this time last year. The company, which blamed sluggish sales and tighter profit margins for the fall, also said its position in the second half of the year would be hit by the temporary closure for refurbishment of some 50 stores. The Fins ment of some 50 stores. — Ion King

Cider's rosy time

HP BULMER, Britain's biggest cider maker, said yesterday that it expects to see continuing growth in the market over the next year. The comments came as Bulmer, whose brands include Strong bow, Scrumpy Jack and Woodpecker, unveiled full year pre-tax profits of \$27.5 million, an increase of 10 per cent. Bulmer, which bought Devon-based Inch's in May for £23 million, said there had been strong growth in the take home cider market. — lan King

Underside Dan Atkinson

Charles's divorce papers was not quite legal irrelevance

claimed. In stating that the marriage broke down irretrievably in November 1993, as opposed to the true date of November 1992, Farrer & Co, the Queen's solicitors, may have exposed Chazza to the attentions of the Inland Revenue. Under the regs, the married couples' allowance can be claimed only for as long as the couple live as husband and wife, a state the Revenue considers terminates at the point of breakdown. Charles agreed to pay in come tax in February 1993. Had the marriage really broken down in November 1993, the Prince could have claimed the allowance for the whole of 1993-94. Should a similar drafting error have been made in his tax returns, the Revenue will be looking for some back-tax from the Wales household. OK, £688 plus interest won't plug the tax gap on its own, but every little helps.

ROTHER Yank's ha-Bred of the Cubans week's attempts to bully other countries into joining the anti-Castro crusade — is matched only by his foam-ing loathing of that island's most famous product, tobacco. No doubt the Clintonistas imagined that, in Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of fag-machine BAT and trader with the hated Fidel, they had found the perfect target for their twin obsessions. Not so. The joke inside BAT is that Sir Patrick, whose love of the weed rivals that of FC himself, is delighted at the prohibition on his entering the US; it provides the perfect excus not to appear before one of Washington's anti-smoking

1992 1993 1994 1995 1996

kangaroo courts. EMEMBER lousy old British Rail, where the heating broke in winter and the air-conditioning failed in summer? What changes under the dynamic private sectori Just look at the East Coast railway, once notorious for the non-conditioned air in its high-speed trains. Now, with Sea Containers on the footplate, everything is ... exactly the same. The 16.50 train from Newcastle to London on July 11 is a case in point:

our spy found the atmounbearable in carriage C; there followed an announcement urging those placing the blame firmly where it always belonged on the passenger.

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

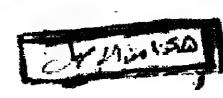
Social exclusion is a terrible thing, as a report on joblessness from the hyper-worthy Employment Policy Institute this week made plain. Em barrassing, then, that the authors of the study — Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth from the LSE — were excluded from the document launch at the Reform Club. Until, that is, the club

Reform Club LET YOU IN? TS MORETHAN MY JOB'S WORTH!

front page is a puff for page three's top item: "Knight-

for the multi-million pound refurbishment of George's Chapel, but the trated. A product from has been selected for the light-dimming system in the chapel, an exquisite build-ing containing the seats for the Knights of the Garter. At least three British companies make similar or compatible equipment. With all due respect, this is not the way for the Royals to begin the post-divorce fight-back.

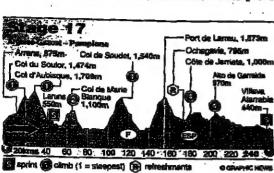




Riis punishment points Ullrich to podium

the transfer of power in this Tour de France better than the moment yesterday afternoon when Miguel Indurain was invited on to the podium here, three miles from his home crowd, "I have won, but you must remember Indurain remains a great champion"— joined him. To rub it in, the Dane presented Indurain the bouquet he had been given with the yellow jersey Bjarne Riis, who was in such a position of strength that he was able to gift the stage win to Switzerland's Laurent Dufaux. OTHING symbolised

smile on his face in front of his most passionate fans after



been neither a stage winner and interest that pressure from Richard Virennor maillot joune. There was a wistful look in his eyes as the climbed to the top step, then the familiar vague smile sports newspaper Marca yes tain winner of the King of the

It was Indurain's first appearance on the podium this two of the worst days of his year, not since 1988 has he illustrious career proved the

sports newspaper Marca yes-terday was correct: "Indurain champion.

He was not the only big loser at the end of a stage as long as a one-day World Cup race, run off half an hour faster than the fastest sched-

ule, at an average speed of 23mph over four Pyrenean passes in heat of 30C. With the defending Tour champion who slipped to ninth and 10th. Russia's Evgeny Berzin, who had donned the yellow jersey with such arrogance in the Alps, finished over half an

After his crushing win the previous day at Lourdes, Riis might have been expected merely to observe his oppo-nents. But Indurain, Rominger and Olano signed their own death-warrants when they slipped back on the third major pass of the day, the Col du Soudet, under Weekly

que's Festina team, who had their sights on moving their little climber — already a cer-tain winner of the King of the Mountains prize — up the overall rankings.

Once Indurain, Olano and Rominger had slipped farther behind on the monstrously steep Port de Larrau, which climbed eight miles to the Spanish border through beach woods and across bak-ing scree slopes, Riis changed his plan.

Along with him in the lead

in the second group were the group of eight was his teamworld champion Abraham mate Jan Ulirich, a 22-year-Olano and Switzerland's Tony old prodigy from Rostock, Rominger, second and third who had started the day overall yesterday morning fourth overall. Riis, for many years a domestique himself, realised that if he kept the second group at bay Ullrich would move into second place. His punishing stints at hour back. Britain's Chris the front of the lead group had the rest struggling to to finish with the "bus" of keep up, and broke Rominger sprinters, 45 minutes back. was still the strongest, and leapt away with insolent case in the streets of Pamplona. Only Dufaux held his wheel.

Today's stage: Pampiona to Hendaye, 97 miles.



Road to nowhere . . . Indurain, who knows how to lose like

Swinburn looks set for August comeback

Graham Rock

ALTER SWINBURN will learn next Wednesday when he will be able to return to race riding. The jockey has been asked to attend a meeting of the Jockey Club Licensing Committee at Portman

A statement issued yester-day by the Club said: "The reissuing of his riding licence and the implications of his return to race riding" would be discussed.

Liffey River, an unraced, blinkered horse, was Swin-burn's mundane ride at Sha Tin, Hong Kong, on February 11. His inexperienced mount veered right leaving the stalls, galloped the width of the track and crashed into the rails, shooting Swinburn to

He hit the metal rails' support and suffered extensive injuries, including a fractured collar bone, fractured ribs, and extensive bruising to the brain and upper body. Holes were drilled into his skull to relieve pressure. His lung began to fill with blood while he was being taken to a hospital adjacent to the course and he was later told that, if he had arrived 15 minute letter he was not reconstructed.

minutes later, he would probably not have survived. The Jockey Club's medical officer, Dr Michael Turner, and a specialist neurologist, Dr Peter Hamlyn, have both submitted reports to the Licensing Committee, and

Swinburn has received

The reports are believed to confirm that Swinburn has made a good recovery from his accident.

The "implications" noted in the statement refer to the possible effects of a similar accident, a rider falling onto the head following brain dam-age would be less likely to make a full recovery than one who had not previously expe-rienced a similar accident.

gists suggest that six months is the minimum recom-mended safe recovery period; among official organisations to accept that restriction is the DVLC, which requires that drivers who have suffered brain damage wait six months before being reissued

with a licence.
If the Jockey Club officials endorse that view, Swinburn could return at Deauville or eopardstown on August 11,

nine days before the York Ebor meeting.
Swinburn was resting yes-terday at the family's Green Genesis Stud on the outskirts of Newmarket and refused to take telephone calls.

"Walter is fine and well in himself," said his agent, Graham Greene. "He is in good form and looking forward to opportunity."

If he does return on August

11, Swinburn will be anxious to renew his association with Halling in York's Juddmonte International on August 20, He rode the Godolphin colt to win both the Coral-Eclipse and the big race at York last season. Earlier this month he had to watch as John Reid partnered Halling to a repeat victory in the Eclipse at

Swinburn looks sure to miss the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes on Saturday week. Yesterday Maureen Haggas confirmed that Pat Eddery

had been booked to ride the Derby winner, Shaamit, in that event Michael Hills partnered

Shaamit to victory at Epsom, but opted for Pentire in the Eclipse and partners that horse again in the Diamond

Eddery was asked to ride Shaamit in the Eclipse, but the horse was withdrawn a few days beforehand, having failed to recover in time from the foot injury which had ear-lier prevented him from run-

Big Mig soaks up home brew as fans lay out welcome mat

Alasdair Fotheringham

THE welcome-home party was ready but the guest of honour arrived late. Miguel Indurain went through his home town eight min-utes behind the race leader Bjarne Riis; as Big Mig was milking the applause from his fans in Villava, three miles ahead at the stage fin-ish Riis was receiving a similar welcome in Pamplona.

3,000-plus supporters lin-ing the route through Vil-lava appreciated the irony. "We've been waiting too long for this day now for it' to matter that much," said the ...vice-president of the

local Indurain fan club.

"Miguel is still Miguel and it's important to be with him in the bad monants, which is when he needs us. As for the good moments, everybody's there for them."

place in a large stand next to the Indurain family farmhouse. Pacharan flowed — a heady mix of anis and cherries — local folk-songs were sung and a brass band played. As Riis, Virenque and company dashed for the in-

termediate sprint, the en-thusiastic musicians pumped out the old war-cry of Indu-rain, Indu-rain, Indu-rain, taken up instantly by the crowd. Indurain's parents, wife and seven-month-old son were ensconced on the farmhouse balcony over-looking the road, and as he flashed by there was the

waving of a minute paw from underneath a Banesto sun-bat, and the old familiar grin returned — briefly — to the face of the five-times champion.

This is probably all that Indurain will see of his son for now. "We aren't allowed to leave the team hotel," pointed out Pruden-cio. Miguel's younger brother who also rides for Banesto, "but in any case we'll be back on Monday." It was their father, Miguel senior, who put it in context. "If they've orga-nised all this rumpus for him, he must have done

Bath with form

385722 DURBARA (10) (BF) P. Simpson 5-3-2 1459-63 PLUSHT BRASTER (17) P. Malde 4-3-2 64-000 (RAMA SEME 1/7) J White 4-3-2 -0-LOST REALIN (289) Nerryn Meede 4-3 42814 SCOTTEN PARK (2) M Pige 7-4-2 805-63 TRACE WHID (4) (3) J C Sem 5-4-2 64(0-45 SRETTA THER (17) C Pophero 6-4-17 --0401 TRPAC Replant 3, Pagel Meeter 7, Tracks Wh

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retts Salesman S, Tabl 7 PORM GLIBBE - SALESMAN 6-4 lav. promisers, chared winner Roel 2, just on over Stiets, 2nd of 13.

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2 05254 - RASAVEL (18) (5) (3) P Sense 4-10-0
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3 05056 PRIMER (7) M Univer 3-5-1
4 05056 PRIMER (7) M Univer 3-5-1
5 804-00 ROYAL THEREIS (22) Not 1 Chance 4-5-5
6 0-10575 MENORY (10) FCD) Join Boys 4-5-1
7 10-1461 MARK EQUIN WALK (8) (85 and 9 Constant Days 10-14) MARK EQUIN WALK (8) (85 and 9 Constant Days 10-14) Mark Equin Walk (7, Debutter 5-7-10) POINT TOP). Hog's Memory 4, Markequin Walk (7, Debutter 5-7-10) FCONTO, (0-1 Royal Thirds).

Worcester N.H. tonight

© Sky Ttl: 7.30, 8.00, 6.30. † Describe Ministra. Galage Go

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| 207 | 0 SYLVANIA LIGHTS (7) W Mpt 8-6 | _ S Whiteerth S | |
| | 4 TIMELY TOUCH (14) II Elleby 8-4 | C Tierra (3) 6 | |
| 200 | 54 VICKYS DOUBLE (25) J Home 8-4 | | |
| 210 | WOODLAND DOVE K Wingrove 8-6 | P MeCube (4) 2 | |
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155-005 MURHER HARDER (26) K Hopy 4-9-5
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5 SCHOLD FOR JEES (16) F Joyden 3-8-2
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© Sty Tt. 7.15, 7.46, 8.15 & 9.45. Drawn High land sycholo. * Dannad - D-DELT VARIOR SHILLING VARIENCE OF STYLE OF STATE
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8.45 CO COMMINIO RACING WITH THE DARLY TRUBBRAPH BY
1 0-0332 CHITHROAT AND (14) (0) Mrs M Pervisey 6-10-0
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2 00-633 ALCARD (17) Mrs M Pervisey 6-9-4
4 0504-1 HOYAL VACATION (25) G Noore 7-0-4
5 05-45 SOURLE DARM (10) (17) M Journal 13-0-2
6 05005 DHARE (17) (0) Mrs (10) 173 M Journal 13-0-2
7 00-1945 IZZA (12) (0) W Storey 5-8-8
8 4-0000 (ASSAMA, (1-0) W Storey 5-8-8
9 1-0204 WARRAYAS (7) M Carrecto 3-7-50

ng: 3-7 Chinecate, 6-1 Agent, 12-1 Bedger Bay, (Papel Di

4.0.8 (Fig. 22): 1. M.ASPANTU, R. Hills (over tay): 2, Double Up. (8-1): 3, Ordeland (11-2). 1 Tran. X. 25. (3 Goodson) Tole: 2.1.00. 120. 12.00. 20. This: E12.00. CSP: 210.64. Tricopt: 232.88.

Blackburn go into red with bid for Cantona

OMEONE at Black burn would appear to have a mischievous streak. That was how it must have seemed yester-day afternoon at Manchester United when out of the blue and white a £4 million bid for Eric Cantona came through one of Old Trafford's fax

After initial astonishme United recovered sufficiently to turn Rovers down flat.
"There is no way the matter
will be considered," said Unit. ed's assistant secretary Ken Ramsden. "The offer has been rejected out of hand. Eric will not be going to Blackburn

Rovers or anywhere else." Meanwhile Blackburn's hierarchy were insisting that it was a serious offer and not a was a serious oner and not a response to United's attempts to lure Alan Shearer away from Ewood Park, which caused Jack Walker to issue a

hands off our boy" warning. Ramsden was not prepared to speculate on the reason for Rovers' bid, saying: "It is an unusual episode to say the least but it is not for us to other clubs'

Shearer will learn of this latest twist in an increasingly unsavoury saga today when he peruses the English press side the pool of an exclusive hotel in the Bahamas. On his return to north Lancashire early next week he is expected to meet Walker and the Blackburn chairman Robert Coar to discuss recent

Walker apparently has a verbal agreement with Shearer that permits the England centre-forward to leave Blackburn the moment he feels unsettled. One way or another, he may yet be play-ing alongside Cantona come

That other charismatic French forward David Ginola process into motion. is to stay at Newcastle United and that is official — or at least that is the latest that Terry McDermott has be

told. "I have heard it from his own lips so there is nothing second-hand about it," the assistant manager said yester-

Grehame Lloyd

Newtown 1, Skonto Riga 4

EWTOWN were out

classed by the Latvian champions Skonto Riga in Wales last night, a rare slip by their goalkeeper Michael

Barton towards the end of the

first half smoothing the path

to a comprehensive victory by the visitors.

Newtown were aware of the

difficulty of the task facing

them. Two years ago, Skonto

knocked Aberdeen out of the

Uefa Cup and last season they

won their league by 27 points. The side soon showed why

they make up the nucleus of

Babichev was the first to

test Barton in the Newtown goal in the fifth minute as he immediately began to run the

midfield. Yeliseyev then

brought Barton into action again before Pindeyev was folled by another save. New-

town found it difficult to

mount any meaningful

attacks, so adept were the Lat-

lowed by their only chance of

the first half — a header from Williams — before Shtolcers

turned sharply on the edge of

the box and hit a post.

their national side.

day. "I have spoken to him and he has made it clear that

ne is staying." The French left-winger's agent announced last week that Ginola wanted to join a £4 million move with the Spanish club. Barcelona and was discus

"Yes, he was into going to Barcelona because it was a dream of his, but it's not to be and it is out of his mind now," McDermott said.
"All he wants to do is play for
Newcastle and he'll be here next season — you can be as-sured of that."

Perhaps more to the point Barcelona, Bobby Robson's club, have now filled the gap on their left flank by buying back the 1994 European Footballer of the Year Hristo Stoichkov from Parma for \$2.2 million.

Tottenham have managed to make a decent signing at last, although it is their manager Gerry Francis who has put pen to paper. Francis has broken the habit of a lifetime by deciding to work under a two-year contract - worth 2350,000 a year plus boruses.
Promoted Sunderland are hoping to snap up the Romanian international Bogdan Stelea on a free transfer. The 28-year-old goalkeeper, out of contract with his club Steaua

Bucharest, has been on a week's trial at Roker Park. One player staying put is the Liverpool midfielder Michael Thomas, who de cided yesterday that he wished to remain at Anfield. Across Stanley Park, Everton have placed their defender Matt Jackson on offer at

The Football Association £600,000. has changed its rules to allow it, "in extreme cases", to suspend a player or official immediately pending a disci-plinary hearing. Previously it had to rely on clubs to take action against offenders while it put its own disciplinary Hove Council has rejected

Hove Council has been started and shopping com-stadium and shopping com-ley at Toads Hail Valley. The decision has to be ratified by a full council meeting, though the club have said they are prepared to appeal and press on with the application.

Uefa Cup, preliminary round, first leg

Barton slips up as Skonto



Edwards happy to take a local pew home straight. "I know what it is to win, I know what it is to fail. I've

Peter Nichols finds Britain's best prospect for a track and field been put up and sprayers will belt to cool the athletes down. gold medal in his element in Bible-belt Tallahassee

isn't happy in Tallahassee, it does not augur well for the rest of the British team. This is the Bible belt of America, with a church (or two) on every corner, and the very religious Edwards is

OLYMPIC GAMES

spoilt for choics. "Yes, I'm very happy here, I have got involved with a good church and have good friends here," said the triple jumper. Edwards remains the on strong favourite for gold in the British track and field not make the run-in any sasting functions off emotional in the heat for up to two liver. He slipped off the rails energy. He [Harrison] has energy. He [Harrison] has energy to the infield changes to the infield sinki that let hardly had a jump in anger had had a j The triple jumper feared by Jonathan Edwards

is not.
"The meetings this season have lacked a bit of spark because everyone has been waiting for the Olympics," said Edwards, who is looking for the atmosphere of the Games to lift him to the heights of a year ago, though he acknowledges that it may do the same for others.

As is his nature, Edwards is As is his nature, Edwards is generous about his opponents: "Quesada [Cuba] is very, very strong; Conley [US] has been there and done it a thousand times; Harrison [TIS] formulation of amotional

JONATHAN EDWARDS | speed is there, the timing still | he can do."

On the length of jump that of jump th said: "You've got to be think-ing that something in excess of 18 metres will be needed

Edwards, whose first intererritory. national outing was at the Seoul Games of 1998, has alencountered the Olym pic Stadium. It was a brief encompetition at the Grand Prix meeting in May. The prob-lem of hydration is a very serious one for us; you're out

had moderate success and a lot of failure as well. I've pictured it all, from walking out of the stadium without a medal to winning it. At the

less likely. Edwards had a blood test in Tallahassee which revealed a slight deficiency in calcium. That can be easily corrected and there are no other apparent problems. "All the paris are going wall, I just need to pull them together."

There is evidence of sp a personal best of 10.46sec for the 100m this year. There is evidence of his strength too as Edwards showed in his maximum lifts in the weights room: 135kg for the clean, 100kg for the snatch, excepstrength for a jumper There is evidence of tech-

formances did not count. The IAAF, however, has

and the world championship. will all rather pale if he does not hit the gold standard on Saturday week.
"We live in a world where

only winning matters," said edwards. It sounded for a mo-Edwards. It sounded for a moment as if he added, "It shouldn't be, but it is"; but he

moment I'm thinking about winning. I'd be stupid if I

He does not say how impor-

tant it has become, but the tension is there to see. All the

achievements of the past 13

months, the world records

didn't," he said.

jumps, confident that he had previously met the Olympic standard. "I don't think they even went through the effort of checkhe said last night of the USA Track and Field officials who told him he had not qualified.

Harrison was the 1991 world champion and, with a personal best of 17.93m set six years ago, is the third-longest triple jumper of all time behind Edward's

world record of 18.29m.

Doctor ready to quit over drug row

John Duncan

RITAIN's athletics team doctor Malcolm Brown British Olympic Association
British Olympic Association medical committee if Michael Turner, the man at the centre of Tuesday night's Panorama programme, continues to sit

Brown's veiled threat came as Britain's former Olympic champion Chris Brasher an nounced that he was so disilnounced that he was so disti-lusioned with drugs scandals that he had decided to miss the Games for the first time in His decision fuelled the de-

Links

lead to

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327

Weakened War

1.

bate sparked by the BBC documentary. Yesterday the British Athletic Federation expressed further anger over Turner, who claimed that three-quarters of all competitorse quarters or an competi-tors in Atlanta have taken drugs. He also said that the new drug-testing equipment would be ineffective. That claim was disputed by

the IOC's doping commission, which challenged Turner to amplify his controversial

Meanwhile, another athlete Meanwhile, another athlete has been added to the roll of drug dishonour. Hard on the heels of the positive tests for the Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua, the Russian weightlifter Yuri Myshkovets was sent home from his training camp and hanned from the Olympics.

banned from the Olympics. "After being burned several times before we do not trust anyone, even ourselves. are very tough now and have decided to test everyone." said Russia's coach Armen

Weightlifting is the Olympic sport most susceptible to doping scandals, and medical officials have pladged to field a drugs "dream team" in Atlanta.

Ironically, news of the ban on Myshkovets came shortly after Tamas Ajan, head of the sport's governing body, said weightlifting had cleaned up its act and was now a mode for other sports to follow.

Iran has dropped two members of its judo team and one of its weightlifters after they tested positive.

Myshkovets faces disgrace but his compatriot Alexei Petrov won an Olympic reprieve after officials accepted his of a jilted fiancee who spiked his protein food with steroids. Petrov, the 1995 triple world champion in the mid-heavyweight class, faced a life ban after failing a dope test. But his former fiancee confessed

what she had done. "It was someone he had promised he would become engaged to and then marry."
said Ajam.
"When he told her he had

changed his mind, she de-cided to do as much moral damage to him as possible."

Atlanta riders may pull out

ORGANISERS of the Olympic three-day event. alarmed by Atlanta's heat and humidity, will stop the event if conditions become too severe. "If it comes to it we will," said Hugh Thomas, the Englishman charged with overseeing the horse trials as Leeds, in the Super League, must pay First Division Huddersfield up to \$80,000 for the technical delegate of the In-ternational Equestrian Feder-19-year-old utility back Maration (FEI). cus St Hilaire. Huddersfield

Thomas was supported by Professor Leo Jeffcott, the Cambridge vet responsible for the well-being of the Olympic three-day event horses. His research team has studied the local conditions and as a result of his recommendations the cross-country phase will be reduced by 23 per cent and will take place early in the day - from 6.45 to 10am on the day of the individual competition and until 1.30am for the team event.

Parts of the course have been landscaped in wooded shade, and in open areas special mesh netting will protect the horses. There will be eight examinations during the competition by an international panel of 80 vets.

Cricket

News and Scores 0891 22 88+

Counties update Derbyshire 31 Middlesex Northants 33 Nottingite 35 Surrey 36 37 Warwick 38 Worcester 39 Yorkshire Leics.

Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30

IMS, 15 Mark Lane, Leads LS1

leave egg on Welsh faces Then eight minutes before half time, fate dealt Barton a shattering blow. Having dealt more than capably everything thrown at him, he let a weak shot from Astafyev slide under his body and trickle over the line to give Skonto the half-time lead. The second half followed similar pattern. After more pressure, including a Babi chev header against the bar, Skonto doubled their lead 20

minutes from time. Astafyev superbly controlled a through ball before nonchalantly volleying it past Barton from ight yards More misery followed for within four minutes game — but in injury

head kick at the far post. Mewtows Barton; J Evans (Thomes, Stmin), M Evans, Reynolds, Wilding, Pile, Williams, Roberts, Holmans (Wilcham,

wigan's chairman Jack Rob-inson had the charge against him of conspiring to defraud the Wigan Observer dropped by the Crown Prosecution service when he appeared at the town's magistrates court Newtown with two goals from the substitute Lobanyov first with his first touch of the Brown restored a little Newtown pride by sliding in the ball after a Reynolds' over-

Skonto Rigaz Laizana: Astatyev. Zeminsky, Sheviyakov. Stepanov. K Ivanov. Biagonadezhdin. Babichev. Shtologra. Pindeyev. Yettesyev. vians in closing them down and then breaking quickly. The Welsh side's first coreferate B Arceo (Spain). ner on the half-hour was fol-

SOCCET

USPA CUP: Proliminary rounds First

log Newtown 1 (Brown 90), Stortto Riga 4;

log Newtown 1 (Brown 90), Stortto Riga 4;

Zalgiris Visnus 2 Crusaders 3, Teuts 1,

Košice 4; Slavia Sota 4, Interes-Grikas 3,

Becel 0, Mura (; Haka 2, Flora Tallinn 2;

Jazz 3, Gon throttarfelag 1; Hutmik Kratow

Jazz 3, Gon throttarfelag 1; Jazz 4, Lotsonovi Sofia 1;

Jazz 4, Lotsonovi Sofia 1;

Jazz 5, Logia Warsaw 4,

STUDENT WORLD CUP: Soul-finaist France 31, Argentina 19, SA 53, Scotland 31.

Tennis

ATP LENG MASON CLASSEC (Westington): First rouseds B Black (Zim) bt C Adton): First rouseds B Black (Zim) bt C Adton): First rouseds B Black (Zim) bt C Adton): Good (Zim) 6-4, 7-6; N Perchas (US) bt
C Cocta (Spi 6-4, 7-6; N Perchas (US) bt
D Vacok (Cz) 8-3, 8-3; C Woodcust (US) bt
L-P Fieurian (Fr) 8-2, 6-2; B Joyce (US)
bt G Pozzi (U) 6-3, 2-6, 8-3; N Arsad (Mor)
bt M Tebbut (Ans) 6-2, 8-4; S Samplaise
bt M Tebbut (Ans) 6-2, 8-4; S Samplaise
bt M Tebbut (Ans) 6-2, 8-4; S Samplaise
(Armenia) bt O Orizi (Mas) 6-2, 6-2; G
Canaphell (US) bt A Hernandez (Meu) 8-3,
Gambuell (US) bt A Hernandez (Meu) 8-3,
6-7, 6-3; M Ondreades (SA) U G Stafford
6-7, 6-6; K Muccara (Slovak) D D
Cantwell (US) 6-4, 6-0; J Kracara
to L Peac (India) 8-4, 6-2; Second rousedbt L Peac (India) 8-4, 6-2; Second rousedto L Peac (India) 8-4, 6-2; Second (Por) 6-2
P Raffer (Aus) bt J Cymina-Silva (Por) 6-2
6-2.

FRENCE (AUS) NA CONTROL (Styling and Control (Styling and Control (Sp.) b) H
Second round: A Control (Sp.) b) H
Drockmann (Get) 5-7, 5-2, 6-4; T Manufer
(Aut) by M Gorte (Sp.) 7-6, 7-6; M Larason
(Swe) b) B Narbalan (Get) 6-2, 7-6; S
(Swe) b) B Narbalan (Get) 6-2, 7-6; S
(Edberg (Swe) b) C Rund (Nov) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; F
Moya (Sp.) b) S Schallen (Nom) 6-3, 8-2; F

Rugby Union

Results

ENNY HARRISON, who Britain's Jonathan Edwards believes will be his reatest threat for the Olympic triple jump gold medal, has been given an 11th-hour reprieve to compete in the Games by the In-

Sport in brief

Rugby League

Wigan's chairman Jack Rob-

yesterday. But Robinson, 54

faces two new charges of in-

citement "to send a false in-strument" and one of pervert-

Giovanni Lavaggi has signed with the Minardi team for the

rest of the season. The 38-year-old Italian is test driving

Minardi's M195/B car at the

Misano circuit today and will

compete at the German Grand

Mountain (Sp) bi M Filippini (Uru) 6-3, 0-6, 6-4; F Cleavet (Sp) bi J Krocako (Hun) 6-4, 6-4; M Gestafasor (Sve) bi F Downii 6-6; M Gestafasor (Sve) bi F Downii 6-8; 6-7, 6-4, 6 Siamoo (Sp) bi J dev (Jin) 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, 6 Siamoo (Sp) bi J Novali (Cr) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

County Championship
SURREY v SUBSEX
Golderer Surrey (Spis) have stored
for eight against Sussex (3).
Surfaces
D J Becknell G Moores b Law
M A Butcher c Wells b Jarvis
"A J Surrent C Moores b Law
G P Thorpe c Moores b Jarvis
A D Hotinake c Amey b Lewry
C C Lewis c Amey b Salebury
B P Julian c Moores b Lewry
I'G J Kessey not out
Extras (b4, 85, w2, nb4)

Extras (04, 85, w2, nb4) 175

Total (for 8, 104 overs) 277. 285, 285, 300. 76 bets R M Pearcon. 8-57-3; 280. 85 set R M Pearcon. 8-57-3; Lawry Bowstings, Jarvis 20-4-68-2; Gliddins 15-2-45-2; Law 20-4-68-2; Gliddins 15-2-35-0; Lenham 4-1-17-0; Salisbury 25-3-33-1; Greenfield 6-2-13-0. 9183525; C W J Albey, N J Lenham, A P Wells. K Greenfield, M P Spergin, D R Law, 10 K Salisbury, 17 Moores, E S H Gliddins, P W Jarvis, J D Levery, Limbrase R Polimer and B Leadbeater. COSTOUTIER CUPS 180-ab. Macropales Gloucestershire 249-7; [M G N Windows Gloucestershire 249-7; [M G N Windows 17:20 M A Lynch (60n), Durham 252-8 G Number 105m; S L Campbell (50) Durham von by tour kets. 15-5 M D Ackernan 99, N Pothas 541 Glernorgan 96-5.

Prix on Sunday week.

Britannic Assurance

Cricket

ing the course of justice.

Motor Racing

Duncan Mackey in Atlanta

ternational Amateur Ath-letic Federation after the United States left him out of their team. Harrison won the US Olympic trials here last month with 18.01 metres. the best in the world this year. But it was wind-assisted, and such jumps are not eligible as qualifying

Chris Wilkinson moved into

Tennis

wins appeal to IAAF for a place in the US team ships, so it was ruled that the American had not reached the IAAF standard of 16.85m since the period for posting it began in January 1995. Harrison claimed he had

several jumps further than that distance, but US offi-cials told him indoor per-

is particularly helpful to sprinters and jumpers be-cause the thinner air offers

less resistance. After Harrison's opening attempt at the trials, he pessed on his other five

ruled in his favour even

though he failed to achieve

the necessary distance by

Tuesday's deadline. It has

accepted a mark of 17.05m, jumped at altitude in Reno

in February 1995. Altitude

Rugby League

the second round of the Man-chester Challenger in Dids-bury after his opponent Ga-briel Trifu, whom he was leading 6-3, 4-2, was disqualified. The Romanian had ashed out at the ball, hitting a linesman. Cricket England are to play Sri Lanka

in a one off Test in the sum-mer of 1998. The fixture is part of a four-year pro-gramme for the World Cup holders, who plan to play more Tests up to 2000. more rests up to 2000.

The Australian radio commentator Alan McGilvray has died aged 85. His broadcasting career spanned nearly

vears. Obliviary, page 10 SECOND XI C'SMIP: Bristell Gloucs
300-6 dec [N J Tramor 12(tno) and 140.
Midth 251-7 dec [P E Wollings 61, 5 P
Mohnt 53] and 173-5. Drawn. Halsesowers
Hanns 42-9 dec (N S Kondall 100, 9 J
86tham 84; Micza 4-95, Leatherdalle 3-60)
86tham 84; Micza 4-95, Leatherdalle 3-60]
87d 853-5 dec [J R Treagus 77, Bohann
80). Wortes 347-4 dec (V S Solank) 158, M J
80). Wortes 347-4 dec (V S Solank) 158, M J
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Webster returns to union fold with Bath international scrum-half lan Wales at league and union. Webster, unlike the Wigan players Va'aiga Tuigamala and Henry Paul, who are join-Watson has joined Super League's bottom-of-the-table club Workington Town. The League's transfer tribu-nal last night ruled that

RICHARD WEBSTER, the former Wales and Lions rugby union flanker, yester day agreed to a return to the 15-man code with a move to Bath. The English league champions and cup holders are to pay Salford Reds about \$40,000 for the services of a player who left Swansea for Salford in September 1993 for a reported fee of £100,000.

With the movement of players to union growing apace, another Courage league club. Orrell, had been interested in signing the forward, who has played internationally for

and 147-1 (S C Goldentth 62nd). Norfolk won by nine wickens. Occurestry Strope 506-5 (Asil Din 129, K Sharp 68) and 196 (M R Oarlos 57: Myles B-43). Berks 248 (G E Loveday 65) and 256-2 (G E Loveday 113no. N W Pichor 100) Berks won by apply wickens.

BASEDAN

RATIONAL LEAGUE Adanta 3. Montrell
2 Chicago 5, Pitisburgh 10: Los Angelee 1.
2 Chicago 5, Pitisburgh 10: Los Angelee 1.
2 Chicago 5, Pitisburgh 10: Los Angelee 1.
3; Colorado 5, San Francisco 3.
3; Colorado 10: Minnesota 2.
3; Colorado 11: Min

TOUR DE FRANCE: Stage 17 (Argeleo Gazosi to Pampiona, 262m): 1, L. Dulaux (Switz) Festina 7hr / Thin Seet, 2, B. Ritis (Den) Deutsche Telekom same trace 3, R. Virenque (Fr) Fostina at 25ec; 4, J. Ultrich (Gort) Deutsche Telekom same trace 3, R. Virenque (Fr) Fostina at 25ec; 4, J. Ultrich (Gort) Deutsche Telekom: 5, L. Lebtanc (Fr) Politi; 6, P. Ugrumov (Laß, Rosiotax: 7, F. Essartin (So) Keinde: 8, P. Lutenberger (Aut) Carrora all st. 9, M. Lettl (it) SAECO 528: 10, P. Savoldelli (It) Rosiotax 3; 1, N. Stophena (Aus) ONCE 830; 12, T. Rominoger (Switz) Mapol: 13, M. Fernandez (Binos (So) Mapol: 13, M. Fernandez (Binos (So) Mapol: 14, B. Hamburger (Don) TVM; 15, G. Guerini (It) Polti. 16, P. Jonker (Aus) ONCE: 17, L. Brochard (Fr) Festina: 18, M. Bartoli (It) MS Technogym: 18, M. Indurain (So) Baneeto, at st. Alsoo (DB, C. Boardman (GB) GAN 45:07 Oversille 1, Ritis Bihr 15min 24csc.; 2, Ultrich st 3:59; 3, Veredqui 4:25: 4, Dulaux 5:25; 5, Lunenberger 6:19: 6, Escartin 7:23: 7 Ugrumov 7:48, 8 Lebbarn Bolt: 3, Clano 11,12: 10, Forminger 11,34: 11 Indurain 15:26, 12, Hamburger 10:18 13, L. Prepoli (Iti) Retin 19:31, 14 Fernandez Garres 21:37, 15, Ude Bolts (Geri Deutsche Telekom 23:05: 14, Bechant 31:32: 17 Jonker 33:03 Alsoe 41

Baseball

Cycling

contracts, has a three-year full-time contract and it is likely he has played his last game for Salford. The League Two club Richmond, who have already signed Scott Quinnell from Wigan, are interested in Web-

ing Bath on short-term winter

player. First Division Batley were ster's former Swansea and Wales team-mate Scott Gibbs, the St Helens centre. Richmond are one of several union clubs who have also looked at the Halifax Blue Sox centre Graeme Hallas. Salford's 19-year-old Wales

Boardman 1.27.33. Mountaines: 1, Viren-que 383pts: 2. Alis 274; 3, Dufaux 176 Pointes: 1, E zabel (Ger) Deutsche Tele-tom 251; 2 F Moncassin (Fr) GAN 206; 3, F Baldato (II) MG Technogym 188.

Evening Racing BRIGHTON

BRIGHTON

6.15 (SF Soyds): 1, SILVER SPEL, 0

6.15 (SF Soyds): 1, SILVER SPEL, 0

7. Holland (11-2): 2, Royan Emblems (8-13):
8-13; Oceans (8-2): 4 ren. 2, 5 (Dr J

8. Cornershie (8-2): 4 ren. 2, 5 (Dr J

8. Carpilli) Tote: S.50. Dual F: 24.10. CSF:
90.8. 4.85 (SF 213)rds): 1, DARK MEMINION (9-1):
91.8. 4.85 (SF 213)rds): 1, DARK MEMINION (9-1):
92.85 (7-1): 2, School Boy (3-1):
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DONCASTER 6.30 (67s 1, SAMBAC, W Rysn (4-1) Favi; 2, Shyara Plyor (33-1); 3, Arvahan (5-2); 3 ran. 2, 10 of Cecil) Tolor (1.30, Dual F: 25.00; CSF, C436, 7,00 (37s 1); DOWGLEFFE GRANGE, K Shod (3-6 Favi; BOWGLEFFE GRANGE, K Shod (3-6 Favi; Dual F 19.00.

2. Able Sheriff (5-1): 3, 53% Cookings
2. Able Sheriff (5-1): 3, 53% Cookings
(4-1), 8 ran. Hd. nk. (1) Cruspman) Tote:
(4-1), 8 ran. Hd. nk. (2) Cruspman) Tote:
(5-1): 60. Tricast £47.32, 7.30 (67): 1,
20 US LE NEZ, K Darloy (7.4 Fev). 2,
20 US LE NEZ, K Darloy (7.4 Fev). 2,
20 Shd. H Guest) Tote: £3.00 (22.00. Dual
27. 504. H Guest) Tote: £3.00 (22.00. Dual
28. 504. H Guest) Tote: £3.00 (22.00. Dual
29. 505 (5-57. NR Amy 8.00 (12.00)

1. NEAT FREEM, P Robinson (11-4 Fav); 2, Tael of Silver (5-1); 3, Kid Gry (7-1), 7 rsn, NK, 4, (M Jarvis) Toto: \$2.30 rsn, NK, 5, (150, 123.0 CSF- 16.00, 8.30 (14rk 1, NUSHANED), W Carson (11-4); 2, Phantons Centr (10-1) Fav; 3, Van Centr (10-1), 6 rsn, Hd, 3, (J Dunlop) Toto: \$2.20, £1.70, £1.30, Dual F: £2.00, CSF: £5.71.

November 1.

had sought £125,000 for the

told to pay their rivals Featherstone Rovers £14,000

plus VAT for the utility

back Carl Gibson. Batley

have to find £10,000 immedi

ately and a further \$4,000 by

(Delate sapinu QC.T) Soccer UMFA CUP: Preliminary round, first legs Barry In v Dinaburg; St Patricks Ath o Slovan Bratisleva (7.45) Rugby League

Cricket ERITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CSUP: (11.0, lour days): Cheltesford: Essex v Notinghamshire Chelteshame Gloucesterbire v Leicesterbire. Old Trafford: Lancashire v Dorbyshire. Northamshort: Northamshonchira v Aust.

Hockey

British Open Championship Score Updates 0891 567 967

Sport

, r**ativiš**: England U-21 v C_{il}y

Rugby Union

Brittle has role in new TV talks





dramatic U-turn yes-terday in an attempt to save England's place in the Five Nations

of the Rugby Football Union's executive committee, will sit down with Ireland, Scotland and Wales representatives next Tuesday in new talks to

the new discussions, after last weekend's decision by the other home unions and france to exclude England from the championship in protest at Twickenham's selling of the TV rights to the sat-ellite company from the

In another twist yesterday, England's top clubs con-

Brittle, who was left out of the original TV talks, will join forces with the new RFU president John Richardson in the new discussions after the need to pay players' contracts

as the professional era begins.
"We are alarmed by this
possibility and so should all
of English rugby be," said Donald Kerr, the chairman of English Professional Rugby Clubs Limited, which was locked in a bitter dispute with Brittle and the RFU for much of last season. "If the BSkyB

Sky has issued a broad hint to Epruc that it may termi-

should the RFU attempt to renege on last month's

will be a platform to expand

letters and telephone calls in regard to the selling off of the TV rights, and people have been dismayed. We will get like to see Sky review their

clude two other officials

Until last week the RFU ne-gotiating team comprised the secretary Tony Hallett, the

ridge, the clubs' representa-tive Neil Hannah and Interna-tional Board representative

illness, but at least three others will lose their places

other negotiators. It is un-likely there will be a role for Richardson said: "The situ-

chairman of the Five Nations

talks. He said: "I would be de-lighted to meet anyone. I welcome discussion and hope to find the solution. But I have had no problems with any personalities in the RFU, only

the policy."

Wales full-back, has agreed a move from Cardiff to League

Links in the chain lead to Faldo

HE form horse is undoubtedly Nick Faldo. The current US Masready won the Open Champ onship three times and is four when the 125th edition of

Faldo is not only playing well, he is a man who likes when at his best, of playing all those sneaky little shots around the greens that courses of this type demand. He has performed exceptiondrews, Muirfield and Royal St George's, all of them the spit-

history at Lytham. In 1975 he won the English Amateur Championship here, and in the 1977 Ryder Cup he comand Peter Oosterhuis, paired together for no better reason than a similar inside leg mea surement, won foursomes and fourball matches together and went out and best Tom Watson, the reigning Masters champion, by one hole.

Memories like that tend to help, come the crunch, although Faldo will have to be at his very best to overcome what is likely to be a crowded leader-board this week. The the lack of typical breezy conditions will result in the field being bunched together with

very low scores. It could in fact become putting competition, which Faldo would not want and nor, on recent form, would the other leading Ruronean contender, Colin Montgomerie. Both players began their careers as brilliant holers of putts inside 15 feet; the kind that must go in several times a round if a golfer is to go low. Both, however, lost the knack and are now occasionals in the top-putting

Nor, one suspects, would Bernhard Langer want it to come down to the putting. This is the place where in 1968 he took five putts on the 17th green, an experience which led to the German inventing the method he uses now with the right hand clutching the left forearm. This is meant to take the right wrist out of the stroke,

eliminating the possibility of the "yips" but it is not infallible. But there have been no more five puri greens. On that occasion in 1988 he had hit a four-iron into the green to six feet, hit the first one two feet, past, the next 18 inches past, the next two feet past and the next two feet past as well. When on the practice ground this week Langer was asked about the experience, he looked the interviewer in the eye and said: "To tell you the truth, I can't remember any-thing about it." His caddie, though, the faithful Pete Cole-written off, for although he

OPEN TEE-OFF TIMES

| | • |
|-----------------|---|
| (Today and tome | errow: GB/ird unless stated; "warnateurs; capitals denote star grot |
| 0700 and 1146 | M Mackenzie, A Langenmeken (Bel), R Willieon |
| 0711 and 1157 | P Lawrie, J Rivero (Sp), B Watts |
| 0722 and 1204 | D GILFORD, I BAKER-FINCH (Aug.), P STEWART (US) |
| 0732 and 1219 | N FALDO, FI ALLENBY (ALM), F ZOELLER (US) |
| 0744 and 1230 | R McFarlano, 8 Hughes (Aus), 8 Maytair (US) |
| 0755 and 1241 | F COUPLES (US), M McCUMBER (US), P HARRINGTON |
| | L WESTWOOD, S JONES (US), W RILEY (AUE) |
| | M James, P O'Malley (Aus.), T Tolles (US) |
| 3828 and 1314 | J Parnevik (Swe), B Charles (NZ), P Jacobsen (US) |
| 9639 and 1324 | B LANGER (Ger), T KITE (US), Y KANEKO (Japan) |
| 0650 and 1326 | 'H TANAKA (Japan), S BALLESTEROS (Sp), J MAGGERT (US) |
| 3901 and 1347 | B FAXON (US), D FROST (SA), C MONTGOMERIE |
| 1912 and 1858 | D Feherty, J Haeggman (Swe), DA Welbring (US) |
| | J Haas (US), P Senior (Aus), H Clark |
| | M O'Mears (US), T Lehman (US), A Forebrand (Swe) |
| 945 and 1491 | L ROBERTS (US), G TURNER (NZ), 8 TORRANCE |

| 7 and 1469 | B Estes (US), W Westner (SA), P Enles | ٠ |
|-------------|--|-----|
| 6 and 1504 | M A Jimenez (Sp), T Johnstone (Zim), J Stu | mên |
| 19 and 1515 | P Broadhurst, D Borrego (Sp), D Love III | |
| 10 and 1628 | R Drummond, S Fleid, M Welch | |
| 1 and 1687 | R Chapman, R Lee, H Meshiel (Japan) | |
| 12 and 1548 | I Steel, F Tameud (Fr), B McColl | |
| 3 and 1 503 | D Smyth, A Lebouc (Fr), A Mednick (Swe) | |
| 6 and 1610 | G Emerson, "S Allan (Aus), M Litton | |
| 5 and 1621 | E Darcy, S Murphy (US), A Sherborne | - |
| 6 and 0700 | R Boxell, T Price (Aus), S Lune (Sp) | |
| 7 and 0711 | D Duval (US), W Austin (US), B Laine | |
| 6 and 0722 | J Leonard (US), B Ogle (Aus), P McGinley | |
| 9 and 0799 | C Discours Aids C Skington (Aug. & Con- | |

0986 and 1,442. G NORMAN (Aus), S STRICKER (US), J PAYNE

| 1230 and 0744 | E ROMERO (Arg), L JANZEN (US), C ROCCA (16) |
|---------------|--|
| 1241 and 0765 | "W Bladon, A Oldoom, B Barries |
| 1253 and 6506 | J DALY (US). P MICKELSON (US), B HIGASHI (Japan) |
| | |
| 308 and 0817 | M Jorizon (Swe), B Tway (US), S Ames (Trl) |
| 214 and 0828 | M CALCAVECCHIA (US), C STRANGE (US), P-U JOHANSSON (S#6) |
| 425 and 0838 | G BRAND JHT, S MARLYAMA (JEDBO), J NICKO AUS (US) |
| 336 and 0880 | V Singh (Fiji), M Farry (Fr), J Furyk (US) |
| 847 and 0801 | Trierron (US), M MoNutty (Zim), A Cejica (Ger) |
| 300 and 0012 | A Coltart, F Nobilo (NZ), M Brooks (US) |
| | P HEDBLOM (Swe), E BLS (SA), C STADLER (US) |
| 420 and 0664 | C PARRY (Aun), 8 LYLE, P AZINGER (US) |
| 421 and 0945 | D Clarte, R Goosen (SA), "T Woods (US) |
| 442 and 0866 | B CREMBHAW (US), N PRICE (Zim), P WALTON |

1443 and 9888 5 CRESSHAW (US), N PRICE (Zm), P WALTON 1463 and 1907 J Roben, *S García (Sp.), *I Hamilton (US) 1804 and 1918 3 PLAYER (SA), C PAVIN (US), I WOCSNAM 1813 and 1928 P Mitchell, M Campbell (NC), R Mediate (US) 1827 and 1940 C Mason, T Bjorn (Den), S Bottomiey 1827 and 1961 5 Grappasornel (S), C Surseson (Sp), R Tocki (Cen) 1848 and 1192 G Law, D A Russell, M Florfolf (II) 1888 and 1192 D Cosese (Arg), S Tiraling (Den), K Pakunaga (Japan) 1810 and 1924 D J Russell, D Hospital (Sp), G Brown 1821 and 1928 K Friesson (Spat), M Heilbarn (Swa), J Townsent (IS) 1621 and 1125 K Erikason (See), M Haliberg (See), J Townsend (US)

trying on every one. He took his time, looked at the line, and just kept missing." Despite the withdrawal of Watson, injured, and several other bit players, the American challenge is actually quite strong. No American professional has ever won at Truessional has ever won at Lytham — Bobby Jones was an amateur when be won in 1926 — but the likes of Tom Lehman, Corey Pavin and Phil Mickelson are all quite capable of adapting their games to suit this week's con-

ditions. Mickelson in particu-lar has a short game that brings to mind the man who won the two most recent Opens at Lytham, Severiano There is another American here this week who has not

attracted much media attention but who has nevertheless won twice already on his home tour. When, in the early weeks of 1995, a golf magazine asked for a "tip for the top" I nominated Steve Stricker who went on to do not very much that year. This year those two wins have taken him to fourth place on the US Money List with \$925,933 (\$504,000); truly a tip before its time. A few pumters have noticed his presence here, though, and William Hill, which offered him at 80-1 early in the week, now stands to lose \$265,000 should he win.

egory when he won at Oak-land Hills in June, he had been a good player before he was forced to take three years off because of injury. He is a modest man is Jones, and at the Golf Writers' annual din-ner he volunteered a few words. "Anyone on any tour,"

brought him. Last man on the course yesterday, rounding off his preparations, was Faldo. On the sheet listing the times and pairings for the practice rounds, his name appeared in splendid isolation at the bot-tom. Not for him the conviviality of a friendly fourball; just intense concentration on the job in hand and the hope, maybe, that in four days' time the last shall be first. Jack Nicklans may have to wifhdraw from the Open, ac-

man, can; and says: "He was | came into the "unknown" cat he said, "can win at any time. I proved that point, believe

One man who knows that he is not going to win this week is the Amateur champion Warren Bladon. It, in May, you had told him he would be playing in the Open and the US Masters, as of right, he would have dis-missed you as a fool. But that is what victory at Turnberry

conding to the 1963 champion.
Bob Charles. The 56-year-old Nicklans was late in joining the New Zealander for a practice round because he needed



Signs of the times . . . Price runs the gauntlet of autograph hunters during his practice round at Lytham yesterday

Nothing bitter in Price's round

Mike Selvey on the 1994 Open winner who ran into a Spanish juggernaut the last time the championship came to Lytham

T IS one of the enduring memories of recent Open Championships. Nick Price, at the back of Turn berry's 17th green in 1994, is hunched over a 60st putt knowing that, if he holes it, it could win him the title for the first time.

The putt ran, ran some more, twisted to the right and, to a gigantic roar, fell into the hole. Price, unable to contain his emotion, pranced across the green and fell upon the Chaplinesque flaure of his caddie Squeaky Medlin, squeezing so hard that the air seemed to whistle out of him. Up ahead, at that precise moment, Jesper Parnevik was blowing his brains out on the last hole, and half an bour later Price was litting the

claret jug.
His relief at whning was enhanced by the memory that twice in previous years he had been overhauled when leading in the final round. The first occasion, at Troon in 1982, when his 73 was not good enough to hold off Tom Wat-son, was not a disaster, for at 25 those were still formative golf years and he had not learned how to win. Lytham six years later was a different matter, and could have de-stroyed him had he not understood that he was on the

receiving end of sorcery.

That year, the one when it rained so hard that even Noah sent for the lifebelts, the Zim-babwean had been two strokes ahead after three rounds and was playing such competitive golf that anything under 70 on the last day and he would surely win. He played out of his socks, and lost.

He went round in 69 strokes — it would have been one less if, in desperation, he had not three-putted the last green — but came up against Seve, in his totemic blue sweater and trousers and white shirt, and the force with him.

After the magical chip from beside the last green had virtually scaled Severiano Baltually sealed Severiano Bal-lesteros's victory, and Price had raced his do-or-die effort past and inevitably missed the one back, the Speniard tapped in for his 65 and turned to his beaten oppo-nent, placed his hand on his shoulder and looked him squarely in the eye. "Nick,"
he said, "you keep playing
like that and you will win."
"Coming from him, a major
champion," Price said yesterday, "that meant a lot. It made my friendship stronger." He said of that round: "It was the 16th that was the key to it all. I think. I'd out-driven him by a dozen yards, so he

perfect. I knew it was good and he nearly holed it.

"But it was the last that really deflated me. He still had the honour after the birdie on 16, and his tee shot last high and to the right set." flew high and to the right so I was convinced that he had found the pot-bunkers, and if not then he had gone into the gorse bush beyond. A good drive, I told myself, and I

would get into a play-off.
"I ripped it, my best of the day, but when we got up there I saw that he had missed everything. He could have a playing the manufacture of the same plugged it or buried it there-after and I knew he would still make a four.

"It was an awesome round, one of the top three that I've ever witnessed perhaps 9.8 or 9.9 out of 10, and they don't come round too eften. In benign conditions I think he

would have shot a 52."
Including that Turnberry
win two years ago, Price has
three major titles himself
now. But he is not sure he can
make it four this week. He has been out of sorts with himself for a while. Diagnosis has shown persistent sinus infections that will require surgery in September on top of the antibiotics he has been taking for months.

"Every day I'm hitting the ball a little better, but good enough to win ..." And he trails off. The course he feels will provide a stiff test, with fairways nipped in at the played first to the green. You

can tell by the sound whether | landing areas as if corseted, an iron has been truly struck, and more penal rough than last time. But where, he wondered to say that he had leukaemia. "It took the wind out of my sails," iron off the turf it sounded ders, is the wind? "We need it." Price admitted. "In a hundred years I never thought he was Without the wind, links courses are defenceless and scoring here could be low, I'd ing. But although he has a tough time shead, I think he's like to see it blow like in '88." But if he does go against the going to be okay and we'll odds and win, it will not be support him all we can. I'll be with Squeaky carrying his bag. A couple of months ago much as anyone."

One course. **Three Open** titles? Seve's Lytham method.

(Ballesteros' Open: 66/1.) TO WIN THE OPEN Royal Lytham & St. Annes, Starts today, Live coverage on BBC. 9/1 N. Faldo 33/1 R. Allenby 12/1 E. Es 33/1 T. Lehman 38/1 F. Nobilo 14/1 Californigomerie 14/1 '6. Norman 33/1 N. Price 20/1 P. Mickelson 40/1 .D. Duval 48/1 V: Singh 20/1 C. Pavin 40/1 S. Stricker 20/1 1. Woosnam 50/1 M. Brooks 25/1 F. Couples 25/1 S. Elkington 50/1 B. Faxon 50/1 D. Frost 25/1 D. Love III 25/1 Mt. O'Meara 28/1 B. Langer

FORECAST THE FIRST TWO HOME Try a big paying "Dual Forecast" like these:

'96 US Open

S. Jones (100/1)

J. Daly (66/1)

1,800/1

Weakened Warwickshire rally after Anwar-inspired Pakistanis threaten to run riot

DAKISTAN, who appeared pected obstacles on a curious to be enjoying a leisurely opening day of this Telley net against a depleted War Challenge four match, writes wickshire attack, met unex John Beaumont at Edgbaston.

"The best action movie you'll see all year." SEE PAGE II IN G2

Seed Anwar continued his | he has made up for lost time | bullying of understrength county attacks with his third century of the tour, a run-a-ball 181 which included 100

treatment to his back. "He told me he may have to pull out," said Charles.

Pakistan gorged on some dreadful bowling as they rat-tled up 222 in the first 42 overs. They then lost their last eight wickets for 71 and were dismissed for 297.

The watching England coach David Lloyd had plenty to fill his notebook, not least how to contain Anwar. The wristy left-hander averaged 40 in his first 12 Tests but his career was disrupted to his first ball in a first-class by a form of typhold, which had him low for six months.

Now restored to full health, added 129 with Anwar for the

with 568 runs in six first-class innings on the tour. He took a shine to a Warwickshire attack lacking Shaun Pollock and Gladstone Small, both rested for the county's first meeting with the Pakistanis in 22 years.

Dougie Brown's first two balls went for six and four and the England one-day off-spinner Neil Smith was lifted for six over cover: Anwar also drilled 20 fours before Brown was rewarded with a catch at the wicket and then the scalp of Salim Malik, who went lbw

third wicket, made a patient half-century before he edged a snorter from the lively Darren Altree, a 21-year-old left-arm quick bowler playing only his second senior game.

The way Warwickshire, who included five uncapped players, exposed the Pakietrie' tril will have exposed. stanis' tail will have encour-aged Lloyd as he prepares for next week's first Test.

Total (73.4 overs)
Full of wisholm 72, 93, 222, 222, 244, 244, 253, 253, 253, 263, 263
Bewillogs Airres 15-0-73-2; Murpton, 16-5-40-6; Brown 21-4-86-9; Welch 14.4-2-55-3; Smith 3-0-30-0; Giles

WARMYCERAMINE
First leadings
N V Knight not out.
A Singh o Sased Arveir
b Mohammad Alvair
b Mohammad Alvair
h Muhammad Alvair
b Mohammad A

Total for 2, 25 overs)
Fell of wickship 4, 69.
To bear N M K. Smith.
Pennsy. D R Srown, 6 y
Ion, D A Altre.
Specificat Wanner Vennse.

Again; N.-Faldo (9/1)

G. Norman (14/1)

Ladbrokes

For a bet, Ladbrokes are favourite.

Sports Guardian

Lytham expects birdie barrage

David Davies on why scores will be lower than the Open temperature

Championship, may be brought to its knees this weekend, all for the want of some wind. The best players in the world are unanimous that if the weather forecast proves correct there could be a birdie barrage resulting in some of the lowest

ecores seen in a major. The Met Office says an area of high pressure centred over the United Kingdom has brought hot sun and clear skies and, most important, the lightest of breezes. The players say the cut could thus be well under par and the field bunched together as never before in a weiter of sub-par scores.

Opinions vary only on the degree of carnage; some players think the winning score will be as low as 18 under others so along with Nick Faldo who ventured 14 under as a likely mark.

Even the Royal and Ancient admits it is worried Michael Bonaliack, the secretary, said: I am fearful of what is around the corner. The weather is incredible really. Nick Price has just been say-ing he would like a little more breeze. but s have any control over that.

The Met Office is indicating that today's early starters, who include David Gilford and Payna Stewart (7.22am), Faldo, Robert Allenby and Fuzzy Zoeller (7.33), Fred Cou-ples (7.55), Steve Jones, the US Open champion (8.06) and Severiano Ballesteros (8.50) will have to cope with 5mph winds, next to nothing in golf. Lee Janzen, a former US Open champion, said yesterday: "You get more breeze opening a car door." The wind may get

up later in the day, but only to 10-12mph. Yesterday the flags over the huge main stand by the side of the 18th green lay limp against the flagpole, and on

THE PERSON OF TH

OYAL Lytham St Annes, venue for this week's Open Championship, may be brought to its processed all for the players expect. The club with which most were working hardest was the long iron. a one, two or three, because they expect to use a lot of irons off the tees; the course is hard and bouncy and driver shots could run off into

Paul Azinger, a former US PGA champion, was disap-pointed by the lack of even a breeze yesterday and said: Wind needs to be a big part of the hazard of playing a links course. Lytham is playing short and it is crucial for it to have a wind Most courses have four defences, wind, water, sand and rough, and if water, sand and the first two the course is close to defenceless." Tom Waison, who has had to go home with a shoulder in-

jury this week, once said that St Andrews without a wind was "as defenceless as a naked lady and as much challange as a promiscuous one". He would have recognised much of the St Andrews about which he spoke in Lytham this week.
Certainly Janzen feels that if there is no wind there will

be "a ton of guys up there with low scores". And if that is the case "someone, on Sunday, could come out and shoot back". The American got up in two at the three long holes yesterday, hitting a drive and two-iron to the 6th, a drive and three-wood to the 7th, and a drive and three-iron into

David Faherty made the point that the best players in the world are here — the Sony rankings say this is the strongest field of the year — and unless the speed of the greens is improved "there will be carnage". He estimates they are running at about aft - slow for a professional - on the Stimpmeter, a device for measuring the speed of a green. "Unless they get them faster." they get them faster," "everyone will hole

This year

we'll be seeing

more rounds

at the Open

than ever before.

Gillespie's Malt Stout.

Official Beer of the 1996 Open Golf Championship.



everything." Faherty was due to play his practice round with Sam Torrance, Wayne Riley and Richard Boxali, a fourball that could close any bar in the country.

joint holder of the record for one round with a 63 at St Andrews, recognised the problem but said, with a touch of "They'll put the cynicism: They it pur pins in the bunkers to protect

SKY Television is likely to be screening Premier-

ship matches on a pay-per ship matches on a pay-per-view basis by next year, the Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis said yesterday. He forecast that the

Rupert Murdoch-owned

station would show 10 games each week from the beginning of the 1997-98 season and that viewers would be charged up to

would be charged up to £13.99 for some matches.

He said Sky would experiment with a series of high-profile "trial" games before introducing the system

across the Premiership.

The whole 20 clubs will be

offered on pay-per-view but it will be restricted to away

In other words, support

ers of a club could watch

their home games on the normal Sky Sports service

but would pay extra to

watch the away matches.

"It is the viewers' privilege

and they can pay it or not

pay it." Ellis said. Sky's proposals have

station will try to sew up

exclusive broadcast rights to football, blacking out

G2 page 8

radio coverage. Jenny about "endless cricket".

This is not the Paris of

dreaming artists but of young

papers and seem prepared for

a life clinging on to the skirts

Derek Malcolm on Les Apprentis

people who never read the

of a vaguely hostile world.

games," he said.

Andrew Culf

Sky 'ready to go pay-per-view on soccer at £14 a match'

agreed, but still predicted a winning score of 12-14 under par which, as Lytham has a par of 71, is remarkably low.

Ahramsky, the former co troller of Radio 5 Live who now runs the BBC's contin-

uous news services, said: "We know Rupert Murdoch

has an ambition for 500 TV channels and wants to

broadcast simultaneously

every league match.
"If he does, and some are on pay-per-view, I cannot be-

on pay-per-view, I cannot be-lieve he would not try to en-sure there is no radio com-mentary," she told the Radio Festival in Birmingham. She said Radio 5 Live had

already struggled to win

rights to broadcast Sky

Sport's first pay-per-view event, the Bruno-Tyson heavyweight fight from Las Vegas, which attracted a re-

cord night-time radio audi-

for sports rights goes on." The immediate future

was safeguarded because

5 Live began a four-year

slot on long wave in res-

ponse to listeners' protests

Premiership contract

local broadcasting."

Sandy Lyle thought there could be the best scoring,

long time. "There will be a lot of depth to the scoring too," said the man who first played at Lytham in 1975 as a 17year-old. He was also at Jacklin's Open in 1969 and when the new champion threw his winning ball into the stands it fell a mere 18 inches from Lyle's outstretched hands.

More golf, page 15

Set by Orlando

Hustlers, high humidity and a lot of bottle



Frank Keating

T STANDS as tall as Big
Ben, as unmissable a landmark as the dome of St
Peter's in Rome. It is a gigantic Coca-Cola bottle, a garish, winking-lit concrete ediise that jags high into the
Atlanta sky. Welcome to the
Centennial Olympic Games.
Oh to be in Athens now that
the centenary is here. The
Greek capital, re-founders of
the faith in 1896, should have
done the honours, of course,
but the twin giganticism of
Coca-Cola and the Olympic
movement jocked them off,
"Of course we are still bitter
about not being in Athens for

"Of course we are still bitter about not being in Athens for the centenary," said one of the Greek athletes, "but money and fizzy drinks are what counts in sport these days." Atlanta was cloudy yesterday, but the humidity battered down unrelentingly on the

down unrelentingly on the sweltering city as the traffic jams across its myriad spa-ghetti junctions danced in a smoggy, mirage-like hast-

A dozen or so modern sky scrapers and that Coca-Cola phallus dominate the skyline, but on closer inspection the heart of downtown Atlanta is a pondescript panoply of park ing lots, broken-down build-ings and vacant scrubland. It has the look of 1950s London before the blitz had been cleared up, but with two days to go Atlanta reflects little of London's post-war high spirits. There is no carnival simosphere, no buzz, none of the feeling we experienced four years ago in bonny Barce-lona that the greatest show on Hucksters line the sidewalks by the hundred with tables and temporary plywood stalls. They sell drinks out of cans, catchpenny souvenir

knick-knacks and the inevita-An IOC member, Canada's Dick Pound, looked on with distaste. "If you have thou-sands of unofficial street vendors you totally devalue the Olympics and create commer-cial clutter," he said. But Atlanta's business is doing

husiness. "Shalom y'all" said the sign outside the bagel store. "Try our exotic meals — alligator, emu or bison" a restaurant ad d, attempting to invoke some global spirit, I suppose.

Coca-Cola, the biggest business of all, announced that its vast Olympic marketing strategy had helped "the product grow more than twice as fast as the west of America's sect. as the rest of America's soft-

as the rest of America's soft-drinks industry in the second, quarter of the year".

The Atlanta conglomerats
was "going at a real healthy
clip as a direct result of our
Olympic activities, which are
manifest," said Coka's chief executive Roberto Goizueta,

manifest, "said construction announcing a 17 per cent increase in net income to \$1.05 billion (2677 million).

Coca-Cola is the biggest of the 1996 Games' 12 private-sector sponsors. The other 11 are each paying \$40 million for the privilege. One of those is the Visa credit card. A Tanzanian journalist, needing to send an important fax back home, changed his precious travelchanged his precious travel-lers' cheques into dollars and presented them at the fax office. Sorry, he was told, you can send a fax only with a Visa can senu a rax only with a visi card. No card, no fax. These are the cashless Games. They are big business. And business

is business.
In the athletes' cantsen, another culture shocked African shook his head in dishelief as he saw platefuls of almost untouched food discarded. "It is utterly incredible to us to witness as much good food being ness so much good food being thrown away," said Methunga Jessie, Lesotho's team manager. "In many African countries people would be killed for being so wasteful.

"All our team come from humble rural farming fam-ilies. We grow our own food and live on it. It is truly shocking to us to see people here pile their plates high for their dinner, leave it in front of them and allow it to be thrown

He would be more shocked to learn that a huge fee had been paid by the man who won the waste disposal rights to this modern Olympiad.

THERE is a big-bucks deal behind every as-pect of this five-ring posal to Linford Christia's appearance on the start-line. Only yesterday a proud blast of public-relations trumpets signalled the news, Lord help us, that "the Atlanta facility of Smithkline Beecham has won the IOC contract to do the drug-testing at the Paralym-pic Games for the disabled".

"Parathletes are much less sophisticated than regular athletes," said Dr Michael Ridding, the International Paralympic Committee's med-ical officer, "so we are far more likely to catch them cheating. We plan to do over 500 tests, many more than we did in Barcelona." There's progress for you.

Guardian Crossword No 20,708



- 4 Preserve a road report that's false (6) Greek poem about irish assembly that is extremely
- honest (3,5) 9 Little Tommy's grub? (6)
- 10 Stem dynasty preparing for war again? (8) 11 Instinctive response of
- good German with reference to battle (3,8) 15 An Asian city managed to
- make progress (7) 17 English trees? Humbug! (7) 18 Mountaineer's scrambling
- 22 Lone Royalist in disguise (B) 23 Champ with his heart in a German city (6) 24 Outrageous jingoism? (8)

- 1 Cheeses, we hear, in cooler
- 2 It looks ill (3,4,3) 3 Creating new fruit (8) 4 Class act in play, say, or end
- 5 it can be addictive in a French city, love can (8) 7 One attempt in the same
- place (4) 8 Accommodation for
- equad's last soldier sent back to second front (4)
- 12 Agree payment for acting
- 13 Church based initially on a rock-forming mineral (8) 14 Consumer magazine about end of migration thanks
- returning bird (8) 16 A piece of music that's 25 Father taking others out for

19 Sharpness shown by a copper getting in the last word in prayer (6) 20 From sofe to settle? (2.2) 21 Changeable island (4)

Stuck? Then call our solutions line

finished — true composition (8)

Members' ir

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